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JOHN BULL

Vol. XIV. No. 362. SATURDAY, MAY 10, 1913. ONE PENNY

[Registered at the G.P.O. as a Newspaper.]

For meaning of this No. see Page III. of Cover.

The world is a bundle of hay;
Mankind are the asses who pull;
Each tugs it a different way,
And the greatest of all is John Bull

—BYRON.

Edited by
HORATIO BOTTOMLEY.

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SEE PAGE 679.

CRICKET COMPETITION. NO. 1.

SEE PAGE 679.

"JOHN BULL" Entrance Form.

Matches starting on May 12, 15 and 19.

Cross out—in ink—what you think will be the losing club. For a draw do not cross out either club.

MATCHES.

1. Sussex	v.	Kent.
2. Essex	v.	Derbyshire.
3. Worcestershire	v.	Warwickshire.
4. Lancashire	v.	Yorkshire.
5. Notts	v.	Surrey.
6. Somerset	v.	Gloucestershire.
7. Northamptonshire	v.	Leicestershire.
8. M.C.C.	v.	Kent.
9. Hampshire	v.	Derbyshire.
10. Lancashire	v.	Notts.
11. Warwickshire	v.	Leicestershire.
12. Gloucestershire	v.	Yorkshire.
13. Northamptonshire	v.	Surrey.
14. Oxford Univ.	v.	H. K. Foster's XI.
15. Cambridge Univ.	v.	Sussex.
16. Middlesex	v.	Sussex.
17. Surrey	v.	Gloucestershire.
18. Essex	v.	Lancashire.
19. Somerset	v.	Yorkshire.
20. Hampshire	v.	Leicestershire.

I enter JOHN BULL Cricket Competition in accordance with the rules announced on page 679, and agree to accept the published decision as final and legally binding.

Signed.....

Address.....

.....

Entrance Forms must be cut, not torn out.

Cut here

Competitor's Guide.

As a guide to competitors we give below **LAST YEAR'S RESULTS** of the matches given on the attached coupon.

1. Match drawn.
2. Essex won by an innings and 27 runs.
3. Warwickshire won by 189 runs.
4. Match drawn.
5. Notts won by nine wickets.
6. Somerset won by three wickets.
7. Northampton won by nine wickets.
8. M.C.C. won by 73 runs.
9. Match drawn.
10. Match drawn.
11. Leicester won by three runs.
12. Yorkshire won by 247 runs.
13. Northampton won by nine wickets.
14. Oxford won by 14 runs.
15. Cambridge won by 10 wickets.
16. Middlesex won by an innings and 43 runs.
17. Surrey won by an innings and 87 runs.
18. Match drawn.
19. Yorkshire won by an innings and 130 runs.
20. Hants won by nine wickets.

As the competition is one of skill, you are also advised to study the cricket columns and reports given in the daily papers.

JOHN BULL.

Politics without Party—Criticism without Cant :
Without Fear or Favour, Rancour or Rant.

Vol. XIV. No. 362. Week ending Saturday, May 10th, 1913. One Penny.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

Letters must be addressed to the Editor or the Publisher, according to whether they relate to Editorial or Publishing matters. All **FINANCIAL, INSURANCE** *and* **SPORTING** *enquiries should be addressed to the* **CITY OFFICES, 52, NEW BROAD STREET, E.C.** *All other communications should be addressed to* **93, LONG ACRE, LONDON, W.C.**

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£10 REWARD.

Wanted, the Copy of "John Bull" for MAY 3rd, 1913, bearing on its Cover the Number 886,472.

Apply THE MANAGER, "JOHN BULL," 93, Long Acre, London, W.C.

THE WORLD, THE FLESH, AND THE DEVIL.

[The Editor discourses upon passing events and topics of the day.]

An Idea.

Whilst an army of police and detectives from Scotland Yard are on duty in Woking, keeping vigil on Mrs. Pankhurst—and watching the clouds for fugitive airships!—couldn't they fill up the time of weary waiting by making just a few casual enquiries about that murdered little Girl Scout, and thus help us to fix the crime upon a certain individual whose movements *we* are watching?

"Banging" Much "Siller."

Sir Stuart Samuel has just succeeded, in accordance with our prediction, in keeping his seat. By the time he has paid the election expenses, and resisted claims by Common Informers for penalties, there won't be much profit left on that silver deal!

"Wait and See."

Certain papers are rife with speculation as to impending changes in the Cabinet. A cryptic utterance by the Premier in his recent speech to the Press Club has been eagerly fastened upon by the quidnuncs, who vie with each other in efforts at plausible interpretation. The Lord Chief Justice continues seriously ill and may vacate his seat at any moment, and several other important judicial changes are in prospect. Moreover, nobody can predict the precise outcome of the Marconi investigations—if they ever come to an end, which, at the moment, appears doubtful. We have already warned our readers to look out for a *big* political surprise.

Phillimore's Fun.

The Royal Commission on Delay in the King's Bench Division should delight the heart of Gilbertians, if any such survive in these dull days. The chief humorist was Sir Edwin Cornwall, who calmly asked Mr. Justice Phillimore if he thought a judge should retire at 65. Here was a neat hint! But Sir Walter Phillimore must have a keener sense of fun than we gave him credit for. His ingenious reply was: "No. I do not. I am more than 65 myself." What a reason! It reminds us of the Socialist who had two pigs. Have you ever noticed, by the way, how everybody considers his own age to be the prime of life?

Municipal Advertising.

We are not sure that we like the Bill for permitting seaside-resorts to advertise their charms at the expense of the ratepayers. Advertising is a difficult art which may tax the abilities of untrained Borough Councillors, who might even think *The Times* a better medium than JOHN BULL. Besides, what opportunities for corruption! The best plan would be to wait till there is a Business Government and then appoint a Minister for Advertising Affairs—Mr. Bernard Shaw, for instance.

Good News.

This is, indeed, good news—large further decreases in subscriptions to foreign missions. The London Missionary Society reports a falling off last year of £29,000; the Church Missionary Society of £28,000; the Wesleyan Missionary Society of £11,000; and the Baptist Missionary Society of £10,000. All of which, we hope, means that £78,000 more has been available for the relief of the poor and fallen at home. We appear to be getting really religious, at last.

The Heaven-Sent.

Speaking at a meeting of the Torquay Women's Liberal Association, under the presidency of Lady Layland-Barratt, a Mr. Leonard stated that he thoroughly believed Lloyd George was raised up by God to come to the relief of the oppressed. Of course, the Tories will retort that Providence does move in a mysterious way His wonders to perform.

Captain Churchill.

By his election as an Elder Brother of Trinity House, Mr. Winston Churchill is entitled to be called, known, styled, and distinguished as "Captain." The which is good. One of these days he may be called upon to guide the ship of State.

We Beg To Ask—

Whether the National Union of Railwaymen and the Amalgamated Weavers' Association will tell us by what authority they have respectively invested £5,000 and £2,500 in the *Citizen* newspaper?

Your LAST CHANGE to win Our £1,000 Cricket Prize. Final Coupon.

England and Europe.

We are bound to assume that the recent public utterances of the First Sea Lord and the Chief of the General Staff have had the official sanction of the Cabinet, and that they represent the considered judgment of the Committee of Imperial Defence. The pronouncements mark a wide departure from the principles which have hitherto been understood to govern Imperial strategy. Apparently, the Blue Water School no longer hold the field, and the presence of an adequate expeditionary force in these islands is now officially recognised as an essential condition of Imperial Defence. Such a modification of our defensive canons is the logical outcome of recent diplomacy. For weal or for woe, our destinies are inextricably interwoven with the ramifications of European policy, and unless we are able to shape our armaments accordingly, we shall soon be no more than a cypher in the calculation of our rivals. We must be ready at all times to "speak with our enemies in the gate," remembering always that, in the last resort, diplomatists talk with guns.

A Scathing Critic.

The proposal to extend the hours of polling in urban districts strikes us as being a reasonable one. Mr. W. Pearce, who recently introduced it to the House of Commons, gave some excellent reasons why it should be carried into law. From his own experience at Limehouse, he asserts that many working men are shut out from a poll which closes at eight o'clock, while they would easily manage to record their vote between eight and ten. Mr. Pearce is a Radical member, and it was therefore the bounden duty of the Tories to oppose his little Bill, no matter how just or reasonable it might appear to be. They made a shockingly poor fist of it, and would have been utterly discredited but for Sir Frederick Banbury, whose talent for destructive criticism amounts to genius. "What!" cried he, "extend the hours of polling? Have you no sympathy for the unfortunate polling clerks, who already work from eight to eight?" Good old Sir Frederick!

Caesar's Wife.

Much interest has been aroused by Mr. Swift MacNeill's contention that directors of companies trading with the Government should be excluded from the House of Commons. He was, at any rate, on safe ground in emphasising the anomalous state of the law which penalises Sir Stuart Samuel, while affording complete immunity to seventy-seven railway directors and fifty-five directors of coal companies, who are at present sitting at Westminster. There can be no doubt that many of these gentlemen are from time to time financially interested in Government contracts, and also in legislative proposals which are advanced for their consideration. We think Mr. MacNeill's remedy unnecessarily drastic. It would be sufficient to exclude such members from any part or lot in matters directly or indirectly affecting their pecuniary interests. We should welcome the establishment of some such rule.

The Dead Hand at York.

No time has been lost by the Chief Constable of York in putting the screw on Sunday traders according to the recent resolution of the City Council. He has sent out a notice to shopkeepers informing them that, "if after receipt of this you continue to exercise any worldly labour, business, or work of your ordinary calling on Sunday it will be my unpleasant duty to take proceedings against you or your assistants for the recovery of the penalty" provided by the statute. Whether the maximum penalty of 5s. will have the effect of shutting-up the Sunday traders remains to be seen. As a rule, it merely taxes the poorest out of competition with those who make the most profit.

Optical!

When is a slave not a slave? Mr. J. St. Loe Strachey propounds the conundrum. The editor of the *Spectator* is much incensed at the attitude of our Foreign Office towards the system of indentured labour which obtains in Portuguese West Africa. He contends that the cocoa workers of San Thomé and Principe are slaves in all but name and that Sir Edward Grey has tacitly connived at this deplorable state of affairs. This is all very shocking, and we seem to have heard something like it before. The terms "slavery" and "indentured labour" are hauntingly familiar. We seem to remember that they once played a big part in Parliamentary discussion. John Chinaman then occupied the centre of the stage, and whether he was a slave or a Sybarite was found to depend mainly upon the Party points of view. From the right of the Speaker's chair he appeared to be lapped in luxury, while from the other side he was seen to be groaning and grovelling in misery and pain. To-day the "outs" have become the "ins," and even the lachrymose *Daily News* cannot be induced to shed a tear over the woes of the indentured. Haply there are reasons.

Piffling Politicians.

Lord Kitchener has advised the Government to undertake a loan of three millions for the development of cotton growing in the Sudan, and Ministers have wisely taken the advice. The proposed outlay will do much to develop an outlying part of the Empire, and will materially conduce to the stability of the Lancashire cotton industry. No sooner had Mr. Lloyd George announced the business-like decision of the Treasury, than up jumped Mr. Tim Healy to twit the Chancellor with an alleged departure from the principles of Free Trade! The Tory Press has since taken up the cry, and certain Radical journals have countered with elaborate proofs of the complete consistency of the Ministerial position. It is all part of the vicious system by which public policy is considered with reference to Party shibboleths rather than to national needs. If cotton growing in the Sudan is desirable, it really doesn't matter a straw what Adam Smith would have said about it, or how it would have appeared to John Stuart Mill. It is good business—let it pass.

A Treasury Trotter.

Mr. R. D. Muir is among the most versatile of advocates, and the facility with which he adapts himself to varying circumstances is the envy of the Temple. He has distinguished himself as a Crown Prosecutor in several notorious cases, and has recently shared his attentions between the prosecution of Mr. Cecil Chesterton and the defence of Mr. George Lansbury. The spectacle of a Treasury counsel alternately conducting a private prosecution and a defence in opposition to a junior colleague at the Treasury Bar is calculated to mystify plain men. What is the secret of these phenomena? Are there too many men in receipt of retainers from the Crown, and if not, why need Mr. Muir resort to such strange devices to fill his time—and pocket?

A Ray of Hope.

As we recently predicted, the Royal Commission on Legal Procedure has recommended the immediate appointment of an additional Judge to the King's Bench Division. The Report suggests that the proposed addition to the judicial strength of the King's Bench should be of a temporary character—probably as a sop to the economists. We take it *cum grano salis* —and with a big grain too. There is one bright spot in the Report. The Commissioners are to consider "better arrangements for the conduct of legal business and greater economy of time." This *looks* like business —but, it may, of course, be an optical illusion.

A New "Bullets" Feature. "Continuous Merit" Prizes. Cash waiting.

Village School Scandal.

The attention of the Education Minister is hereby drawn to the fact that the Heston and Isleworth School Committee are compelling parents "living at the extreme end of Heston, on the main Bath Road near the village of Crawford, some two miles from Hounslow in Middlesex" (nice place to find in the dark!) to send their children to the Heath School, Barrack Road, nearly two miles distant, though there is a school at Cranford, not more than 100 yards away. The children were actually received in this school up to a few months ago, but as the Heston and Isleworth Education Committee, in the words of our informant, "would not allow Cranford to have the education grant, neither would they help to build the school larger, the people of Cranford, who are very poor, were compelled to turn out their children, some 57 in number. Soon after the H. and I. school attendance officer came and bullied and frightened and threatened these parents (mostly farm and garden labourers) with the police court, so that they gradually gave way and are sending their children this long journey—a journey, let us tell the Education Minister, nearly two miles along a main road probably more congested with motor traffic than any in the country, and with a footpath on only one side of it. For forty minutes these children make their toilsome way to school in all weathers. Not only forty minutes there in a morning, but forty minutes back for dinner, forty minutes return again, forty minutes home at night—seven or eight miles walking every day. If the weather is bad they are like drowned rats by the time they reach school or home. If the little ones take their lunch with them, more often than not it is stolen by bigger children, and, wet or fine, they are turned out of doors during the dinner hours, from 12 to 2. Though it is true that the two-mile walk is within the statutory limit, in the circumstances such a tramp is not only a scandal but a danger for which the Education Minister and Mr. John Burns between them ought to find a remedy.

Crippleage Roses.

If Queen Alexandra knew about the sweating wages paid to the workers at the Crippleage flower factory, she would certainly refuse to have its penny hospital roses named after her. A few weeks ago a correspondent told us that the price paid for the making of these roses was 3d. a gross. "Very likely that is the price indoors," another reader now tells us, "but if the workers make them at home they only get 2d. a gross. My sister has worked at the Crippleage for, I think, over seven years, and although she is not slow at her work I challenged her to do a gross in less than an hour and she could not do it." It may be that the contract for the Alexandra roses was obtained only as a result of competition with other manufacturers, but competition which sweats crippled, maimed, and blind girls at 2d. an hour cannot be defended in the name of charity.

"Simpson's in the Strand."

As Simpson's is a sort of London institution, like the Monument and the Zoo, we make no apology for once more referring to it. "I have been fifty years in Australia," says a correspondent, "and recently revisited Simpson's at the invitation of an Australian official. At a peremptory insistence, we left our hats and umbrellas at a side show. When the bill—fairly heavy—was presented, we noticed 'Attendance' as one of the items. My host said to the old waiter, 'Do you expect anything, in view of this charge?' and the waiter said he did, 'as his pay was poor.' Going out we got our hats and 'brellas. We gave no tips, and were pursued with loud yells of 'Thank you, sir,' 'Thanks, sir,' etc." So we are afraid we must add this item to our recent indictment anent the absence of the Yorkshire pudding!

A Novel View—

This is what a correspondent suggests:—"A generation ago, most of our ills were attributed to over-population, and social philosophers drew frightful pictures of a world with no standing-room. Now the one anxiety everywhere seems to be lest population should not expand fast enough. Statesmen protest that it is all very well to multiply armaments, but that we must also produce enough men to use them. In other words, procreation is necessary to provide more food for powder. This seems rather absurd. We want to safeguard our homes and expand our empires, but shall we do so more effectively by doubling the numbers on both sides? It is like playing the same game with the same stakes, only with more chessmen, and when the chessmen are human lives we increase the suffering without affecting the result. Instead of clamouring for disarmament, let philanthropists summon their Hague conferences and agree about depopulation. Then they will for once be logical. Otherwise we shall soon have Socialistic stud-farms for the propagation of international targets." But surely there are other purposes than war to which the energies of the population may be directed?

And Another.

Apropos of our recent article on the Suffragette situation, and our reference to the danger of domestic dissension through Party differences between man and wife, one of our readers suggests that the difficulty would be overcome by only couples of the same political faith entering into the marriage contract—and a subsequent change of politics on the part of one of them being made a ground for judicial separation! What a lot of trouble the John Bull League would be responsible for!

Treasury Tactics.

We have frequently commented upon the tactics adopted by the Treasury when bent upon obtaining convictions. The police are not in it with them. Take the case of Mr. Hooley, who was convicted eighteen months ago on a charge of having obtained what to him was an insignificant sum of money by "false pretences." The only witness called in support of the prosecutor's case was a certain solicitor, named Thompson—and his evidence was flatly contradicted on oath by Mr. Hooley. This man has just been sentenced to three years' penal servitude for misappropriation of clients' money—"common theft of the worst type," Mr. Justice Bankes described it. And it actually now transpires that at the time when these serious charges were pending against him, according to his own counsel, "at the instigation of the Crown he changed his name and concealed his abode, and had detectives to protect him." Why? And what weight would the jury have attached to his evidence if they had known the facts?

Buy, Buy, Buy!

The Blackpool Corporation have a vivid sense of the commercial potentialities of their foreshore. Traders, entertainers, and others who desire to "pitch" on the sea-front are required to take out a licence from the Borough Council. It would appear that there is no fixed charge for these valued permits, but that they are shamelessly sold to the highest bidder by common vulgar auction. At a recent sale no less a sum than £1,768 was poured into the municipal coffers, from which it is quite evident that many of the licensees must have paid "through the nose." Such a system is not, in our judgment, free from objection. Its result must inevitably be to throw the seaside pitches into the hands of wealthy firms—to the detriment of humbler, but equally deserving, salesmen. We should prefer to see the available spaces allocated on some more equitable plan.

For Result of Our Final Football Contest, see page 657.

Save the Palace.

It is rather a pity that the Government have not seen their way to make a grant towards the acquisition of the Crystal Palace for the nation. The Lord Mayor's praiseworthy efforts towards this end were surely deserving of a little State encouragement, and we believe a Government contribution would have met with almost universal approval. In view of their lavish expenditure upon legislative projects, Ministers can hardly expect us to believe that their decision is solely traceable to motives of economy. In any case we should have liked to see the question ventilated in the House, and the ultimate decision left to the unfettered discretion of its members. It is doubtful whether the funds needful for the purchase of the Palace will ever be raised by public subscription. A State grant would amount in effect to a universal levy, so small that no one would feel it. If Ministers have suddenly become squeamish in such matters, there is another and a more excellent way Let them carry our Dormant Bank Balances Bill, and hand to the Lord Mayor the first instalment of its proceeds. We claim no copyright in the measure.

"Undeveloped Land."

About two thousand, at least, of the citizens of Nottingham at this moment wish Mr. Lloyd George were at Jericho. For many years these working men, owners of allotments under Act of Parliament, have cultivated their little patches in their spare hours, making dreary wastes pictures of floral beauty, laden in parts with carrots, onions, *pommes de terre*, Brussel sprouts, and other kindly fruits of the earth. Now has been served on them four years' retrospective notices for the payment of undeveloped land tax—a ha'penny per sovereign per annum on the site value. It is true that exemption forms have accompanied the demand notices, but why in the world should the working men who have invested their free hours of recreative labour and their hard-earned savings in draining and manuring and cultivating these allotments be worried into filling up forms to feed the voracious appetite of a Government waste-paper basket?

Black Men's White Wives.

The circular of the Australian Government warning white women not to marry Afghans and Pathans follows similar warnings which have appeared in this paper from time to time. The association of white women with coloured men is to normal healthy people unthinkable. In London, one frequently sees white women in the company of coloured men in public places, clearly conscious of the "romance," obviously unconscious of the incongruity. To paraphrase Kipling's lines, one might say, "For black is black and white is white, and never the twain shall meet"; for indeed race, religion, custom, law, and morals alike are allied against the union. Many a white girl has married a coloured man to her cost, in this country, to find herself presently deserted without any remedy or any rights in her husband's land—except the right of being a wife with several others, outcast, scorned, and despised by them all. English girls, be warned.

Strand Paupers and their Baccy.

We are requested by several aged paupers of the Westminster Union Workhouse to plead with the visiting Committee to restore to them the weekly allowance of tea and sugar, tobacco and snuff, which they formerly enjoyed. They urge that, though they perform much useful work in the institution, these small luxuries are withheld from them, and that they are still wholly or partly given to many who, though physically capable, do no work whatever. If this be the fact, the hardship is increased.

Another Holy Scoundrel.

Another of the professional pietarians has been found out in his true colours. As pastor of the Junction Street Baptist Chapel, Derby, and member of the Board of Guardians, the Rev. Sydney Hassall was apparently wearing the white flower of a blameless life. All the while, nevertheless, he was corrupting a child of 14—a maid at the house of one of his deacons—and though even now she is only 15 years of age, he has been declared by the magistrates the father of her baby. The proper place for a despicable hypocrite and scoundrel of this sort is gaol. Indeed, he appears to have only escaped indictment under the Criminal Law Amendment Act by the fact that complaint has to be laid within six months of the offence. At his solicitations the girl kept her secret until she could keep it no longer; but the time for criminal action had passed. The result is that in a few months the rev. gentleman will probably be preaching holiness from another pulpit for the salving of souls. One wonders sometimes that a hand does not reach out of the clouds and strike dead such human abominations.

Sunday Milk.

Ex-Provost MacLean's statement at the meeting of the Scottish Sabbath Protection Association in Glasgow is a typical example of the rubbish spouted by the unco guids in their advocacy of a Puritan Sunday. "I could never yet see a reason," said he, "why people should not get their Sabbath milk on the Saturday. To see an army of boys and girls employed on the Sabbath day in Glasgow distributing milk is very discreditable to the city." Evidently the ex-Provost thinks that sour milk is good enough for Glasgow on Sundays, and that cows ought not to be milked between Saturday night and Monday morning. It is strange that for a man to be so very good he has to be so very foolish.

Mr. Ready, Wallington.

Can anybody tell us anything of Mr. Ready, F.R.H.S., and his Rainbow Society "for poor fatherless children and widowed mothers," of which he describes himself as the Secretary, and is apparently also the Chairman, Vice-Chairman, Treasurer, and Committee of Management, judging by the absence of any name other than his own? Mr. Ready sends out pathetic and apparently sincerely worded circulars to members of the Royal Horticultural Society inviting them to assist him in establishing "a Floral Country Holiday Home for Fatherless Children and their Widowed Mothers," and one of the means by which he asks them to aid him in this beneficent work is the purchase of four threepenny packets of seeds, which he encloses. We are ready to hear Mr. Ready, if he is ready.

Cure for Poverty.

The following recently appeared in the agony column of *The Times*:—"Will wealthy influential person take interest in young gentleman (24) refined and well educated (graduate in honours) alone in world, without influence, doomed to incurable poverty in present profession?. . . . *The Times* Office, E.C." Mendicancy is a most profitable profession.

The "People" on Party.

"The House of Commons has degenerated into a mere voting machine. Men of independent mind are becoming less and less useful there. Government is no longer carried on for the greatest good of the greatest number, but for the particular and personal advantage of the few, and the electors are becoming mere pawns in the game. The Cabinet usurps all power and members cannot kick against it."—APRIL 27TH, 1913.

Your LAST CHANCE to Win Our £1 000 Cricket Prize. Final Coupon.

"A Family Affair."

In our issue of April 26th we commented upon the acceptance by the Dewsbury Council from the son of Councillor Garforth, of two tenders for the supply to the Public Parks and Sanitary Committee of 50,000 bricks. We are sorry that, placing what seemed an obvious interpretation upon a local paper's report of the matter when it came before the Council (from which it appeared that Mr. Councillor Garforth, in repudiating an allegation that he was in partnership with his son and should, therefore, be disqualified from sitting as a Councillor if the tenders were accepted stated that he expected that question would be raised "because, when in Committee he gave his vote in a certain direction, he was told he would catch it for voting in that way"), we concluded that the vote referred to was for the acceptance of the tenders. We have pleasure in making it quite clear that Mr. Councillor Garforth is not a member of the Committee, as we assumed him to have been, and, further, that, as a matter of fact, he never voted in respect of the tender in question. In these circumstances, we desire to express our regret at having done him an injustice, and we unreservedly withdraw anything we have said which could in any way be construed into a reflection upon his conduct as a public man.

Wait and See.

Did you notice what the Duke of Connaught said at the Canada Club dinner? "If Englishmen are prepared to work, *and prepared to wait for the result of their labours in Canada*, they will get on splendidly." But how long must they wait?

RESULT OF OUR FINAL FOOTBALL COMPETITION.

RUGBY READER GETS WITHIN ONE POINT AND DUDLEY LADY WITHIN TWO.

We are now able to announce the result of our last Football Competition of the season. There were 20 *matches to be played, but as one—that between Merthyr and Brentford—was abandoned, only* 19 *correct forecasts had to be given. It will be noticed that we take all risk of abandoned matches, and that if only half-a-dozen were played, we should pay the Prize money just the same. No reader succeeded in giving the full results, but* 18 *correct ones were given by*

Mr. A. SHEPPARD,
70, Manor Road, Rugby,

and we have forwarded him a cheque for £250 in accordance with the conditions of the Competition.

The most correct coupon sent in by a lady reader gave 16 *results, and was forwarded by*

Mrs. STEPHENS,
Y.M.C.A., New Street, Dudley,

and we have had great pleasure in posting her a cheque for the special ladies' prize of £50. We hope the fact of an official of the Young Men's Christian Association taking one of the prizes will effectively silence the "Daily News" and other carping journalistic kill-joys, who, having no competitions of their own, see nothing but "vice" in the innocent and interesting recreation which our contests afford. And, by the way, what are the young MEN *of the Dudley branch of the Association doing, to be beaten by a lady? After all, it* WAS *"Association" football!*

A final word! As showing what an element of skill enters into these Competitions, we may mention that many readers got within two of the actual result of the matches.

And now good-bye to Football for the season. Let us to Cricket!

"John Bull's" Biscuits.

["*Taking the Biscuit*" *has become a classic phrase, expressive of a satirical reward or recognition. In this column we present, in all good humour, the token to such of our contemporaries and others as may have distinguished themselves by some unconventional utterance or act.*]

For stating in a summary of the late Earl of Crawford's Will that the deceased, after disposing of "unsettled property of the gross value of £436,279," "left all his POVERTY *to his eldest son, Lord Balcarres,"*

THE EVENING MAIL (Newcastle)
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating in "Garden Life" that: "The frequent rain has made the soil rather DRY,"

"FLORADOR"
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating in an advertisement in the "Mid-Ulster Mail" of a Challenge Match between Sherrygroom and "The Pick of Cookstown": "Admission 3d. LADIES FREE. ALL MUST PAY,"

THE SECRETARY OF THE COOKSTOWN TEAM
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating that: "The first international match held by the Ladies' Lacrosse Association between ENGLAND *and* WALES, *was played at Richmond last Thursday.* SCOTLAND *won by* 11 *goals to* 2,"

THE SKETCH
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating in her school advertisement in the "East Anglian Daily Times" that she is "at home to PROSPECTIVE PARENTS *Thursday, May* 1st,"

MISS COALES (19, Fonnereau Road, Ipswich)
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For speaking of a concert for the benefit of "Mr. William Gear, who, for a number of years has ENJOYED *bad health,"*

THE CAMBRIA DAILY LEADER
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For stating in its report of a football match between the Stalybridge Celtic Reserves and Hurst that: "Mather took a free KICK *with* BOTH HANDS,"

THE REPORTER (Stalybridge)
TAKES THE BISCUIT.

For announcing in the "Statesman," Calcutta: "Arrival in Bombay of Lord Willington, the New Governor, and Departure of Lord Sydenham, also three OTHER *latest* COMICS,"

THE PROPRIETORS OF THE EMPIRE THEATRE (Calcutta)
TAKE THE BISCUIT.

For addressing an envelope to "Brussels, GER.,"

THE NATIONAL GEOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY
(Hubbard Memorial Hall, Washington),
TAKE THE BISCUIT.

For advertising in the Milborne Port (Dorset) Parish Magazine: "The HIGHEST *prices,"*

MESSRS. CARTER & COMPANY (Supply Stores, Sherborne),
TAKE THE BISCUIT.

HALF-A-CROWN FOR EVERY "BISCUIT" PUBLISHED.

We give 2s. 6d. *to the sender of every "Biscuit" published. Should the same item be forwarded by several competitors, preference will be given to the one whose letter is first opened. In forwarding newspaper cuttings, sufficient must be sent to identify the name of the paper and date of issue. Envelopes must be marked* "BISCUIT," *and addressed to "The Biscuit Editor."*

£50 for a "Mauve" Coupon from "Mary Bull." Extra Cricket Prize.

THE MARCONI MINISTRY.

A FEW PLAIN WORDS TO THE GOVERNMENT—AND THE COMMITTEE.

If the present Government goes down to history as the Marconi Ministry, the fault will be entirely its own. We have already stated our attitude towards the wretched thing—which is, in a sentence, that there is nothing in it. And but for an unfortunate error of judgment on the part of certain Ministers in not taking the House of Commons as fully into their confidence as they did the Law Courts, we should probably never have heard anything more about it. Not, indeed, that it in any way concerns the public. Sir Rufus Isaacs, when not in the Cabinet, and in no real sense even a Minister of the Crown, was induced by his brother, the Managing Director of the Marconi Company, to buy a line of shares in an American concern, which had no connection of any kind with the British Government. Sir Rufus, a wealthy man, having decided to take the shares, advised his intimate friends, Lloyd George and the Master of Elibank—both poor men—to have a few, believing he was doing them a turn. There is the whole story, and yet we are having our papers choked with columns of "sensational revelations," libel actions, and all the rest of it. And grave men are wagging their stupid old heads, and speaking in bated tones, as though there were some serious Imperial crisis on hand!

The Cause of the Trouble.

And what is the explanation of it all? Simply, that in the fraudulent hurly-burly of Party politics, the Government got a bad fit of the funks. Instead of leaving Ministers to defend their own honour, in their own way, the Prime Minister played right into the hands of the "Opposition." The appointment of a Committee was just what the Tories naturally wanted. It afforded a magnificent opportunity for diverting public attention from their own little domestic troubles and riveting it upon a tasty dish of personal interest—the "alleged corruption of Ministers"! And then, of course, there will be a big "debate" when the Report comes up, and the rival Party papers will come out with "Scathing Condemnation by Mr. Bonar Law," "Ministers' Lame Defence," and all the rest of it; whilst, on the other hand, we shall have "The Attorney-General's Masterly Vindication," "Mr. Lloyd George's Burning Indignation," and, equally of course, "Overwhelming Vote of Confidence." And the poor, silly public will become excited, and will forget all about Land Reform and Food Taxes. *What* a game it is!

The Initial Blunder.

But, given that it was desirable to hold an Inquiry at all, the Government's blunder was in not setting up an independent Business Committee, under the presidency of a strong non-Party chairman. Mr. Asquith should have taken a lesson from the fiasco of the Stuart Samuel "Inquiry," when, with four on each "side," the result was a dead-heat. As a matter of fact, it *was* soon found that the Spicer Committee was useless to advise upon the fundamental question at issue—*i.e.*, the *desirableness* of the proposed Marconi contract—and an expert Committee had to be set up. This left Sir Albert Spicer and his fellow hacks with nothing to do but either to besmirch or to whitewash Ministers as their Party bias prompted. Thus we had a "brilliant" cross-examination by Mr. Falconer of a dull and stupid journalist, who obviously knew nothing of the matters upon which he had been dogmatising. Then, when the accused Ministers were "in the dock," collapse of Mr. Falconer, and advent of Lord Robert Cecil—with Handel Booth chirping in with a comforting word for the benefit of the Attorney General! And so the farce has gone on—without any check or control by the Chairman. Let us speak plainly. Sir Albert Spicer was not the man for the job. He is an old woman—weak, dull and conventional. Having got his baronetcy (instead of the expected peerage), and intimated that he does not propose to seek re-election, he is a political back number—and all the members of the Committee are doing just as they like with him. He is a Spicer without spice, and his proper place is on his Missionary and Free Church Councils. With a strong man in the chair, the proceedings of the Committee would have been concluded long ago; its Report would have been made, and forgotten; the Marconi contract would have been signed, and we should have had a complete Imperial system of "wireless" well on the way. And Sir Albert Spicer could have been peacefully whiling away the time in the Bread-and-Milk Room of the House of Commons, with the *Methodist Messenger*, the *Wesleyan Waiter*, and the *Baptist Bugler*—waiting for the Division bell to ring.

A Timely Protest.

In such circumstances it is not surprising that the Committee should have lost all sense of responsibility—all sense of proportion. Day upon day is wasted in puerile and undignified squabbles and ludicrous "deliberations in private." Every journalist who has ever cast a slur, or heard of one, upon the honour of a Minister is invited to repeat it, and thereupon the Minister is summoned to the Committee to repudiate "the charge." The thing is a howling scandal and disgrace. Take the case of Mr. Churchill. His protest was timely. The summoning of him before the Committee was the *reductio ad absurdum* of its proceedings; and his thinly-veiled contempt for its authority was justified up to the hilt. Just reflect for a moment. One of the witnesses—the leading financial journalist of the day—casually referred to "rumours" which he specifically stated were in his opinion devoid of foundation. They included, he said, the name of yet another Minister, but, as he was satisfied that they were nothing more than idle gossip, he did not propose to mention the name. Then, of course, came more ridiculous "deliberation in private"; with the result that the egregious Spicer announced that the Committee had decided that the name must be given—and lo and behold! in the twinkling of an eye Mr. Churchill was dragged from his responsible work at the Admiralty to "repudiate" irresponsible and wicked slander. No wonder he was angry. It only now remains for some enterprising Party hack on the Government side to say that *he* heard rumours that Mr. Balfour, Mr. Bonar Law and "F. E." were also in the conspiracy—and then they, too, will be summoned to "answer" the charge. We wonder nobody has thought of that before!

The Next Step.

Now what is to be done? It is useless to go on fooling in this way. Either the Committee must at once make its Report—or it must be discharged. In all the circumstances, the latter course is the more preferable. Nobody cares a brass button what the Committee says; and, in any case, we knew beforehand. Being a Party tribunal, every Government hack will say, "Not Guilty," and every Opposition hack, at the best, will say, "Don't do it again." Oh, for a Business Government!

CUNARD COMPANY'S CALLOUS CRUELTY.

THIRD CLASSERS' STRIKING APPEAL TO "JOHN BULL."

We have received from Montreal a protest from some hundreds of third-class passengers aboard the s.s. *Franconia*, Liverpool to New York, against the treatment to which they were subjected aboard. The signatures occupy fourteen large quarto sheets—a tribute to public influence which few newspapers or periodicals can match—rendered the more striking by the statement, in a covering letter: "It was put to a meeting of several hundreds of third-class passengers as to whom we should send the signatures, and it was unanimously carried that they should be sent to JOHN BULL."

"It may interest you to know," begins the document, "that at a meeting of the third-class passengers on the Cunard Company's s.s. *Franconia*, Liverpool to New York, the following resolutions of protest were carried unanimously and subscribed to by British, American, Swedish, Norwegian, Dutch, Danish and other passengers on board.

ADVERTISEMENTS AND THE TRUTH.

"The Cunard Company's advertisements led us to believe that a decent bill of fare (as per enclosed) was provided on their boats. Such, however, was not the case. Many items we never saw, and the food supplied was not always fit for human use. With regard to this and other matters, the annexed resolutions speak for themselves. Any further particulars will be gladly supplied at any time to JOHN BULL by the signatories. We hope that this will be a warning to intending passengers; and the meeting was convened on the last day of the voyage in the hope that others who intend crossing the Atlantic may profit by our experience. The conditions with regard to lady passengers were simply deplorable. The annexed signatures can all be verified from the ship's Manifest.

INFERIOR, BADLY-COOKED FOOD.

"*Resolution*:—(1) The Company advertise a decent bill of fare. The food supplied was not as per such bills of fare, was of inferior quality, and badly cooked, with no change of diet. No fresh fruit was supplied, except one apple per head during nine days' voyage. The tea and coffee were undrinkable, and it was impossible to distinguish one from the other. For three days no fresh drinking water was to be had throughout the whole ship, save one tiny jet. The potatoes were bad, served up unwashed with their jackets; undoubtedly they were pigs' potatoes. This meeting hereby protests against such treatment, and regards the Company's advertisements as misrepresentations. (2) Resolved, that this meeting protests against respectable passengers being compelled to mix with persons of filthy habits—emigrants of the lowest social order, from the worst quarters of Europe, and particularly protests at being compelled to dine with such persons. (3) Resolved, that this meeting protests against the mismanagement and lack of organisation under which meals were served, and which rendered it necessary for passengers, including ladies and children, after waiting a considerable time behind iron railings, to actually have to fight their way to the dining tables, down a perilous flight of stairs.

INFERIOR AND DEFECTIVE SANITATION.

"(4) Resolved, that the sanitary arrangements on board were inferior and defective. There was no bath room. (5) Resolved, that the bunks in many cases were verminous, the mattresses being badly filled with straw, and no bedclothes provided save a small blanket; that the attendance in the cabins was most unsatisfactory. (6) Resolved, that this meeting is of opinion that the ship's steerage was dangerously overcrowded, that the ship's cooking facilities for third-class passengers were inadequate, and that this meeting hereby protests against the Cunard Company's action in despatching on this ship steerage passengers originally intended to be carried by two vessels. (7) Resolved, that no individual servant of the Company is, in the opinion of this meeting, responsible for the treatment of the third-class passengers, and that we register this protest solely against the bad organisation and indiscriminate booking arrangements of the Cunard Company."

The disgraceful treatment of third-class passengers on Atlantic liners is an old story. Time after time it has been exposed in our columns. In regard to this protest from the *Franconia* we shall add no comments of our own. The eloquence of its truth is in the unanimity of its signatories.

NERO NEALE.

FURTHER EXPLOITS OF A BRIGHTON BOUNDER.

The Brighton patent rent-extractor is on the rampage again. This time he has had the temerity to attack a man, and may find himself in a rather more troublesome situation than when he vented his savagery on a sick woman and a helpless babe. A respectable Brighton tradesman recently had the misfortune to drink a bottle of stout containing the remains of a dead mouse—another argument for the teetotaller! As a result, he became seriously ill and got a bit behind with his rent. His landlord appears to have behaved reasonably, agreeing that he should be permitted to vacate his premises upon payment of the arrears without awaiting the expiry of his term.

But before the tenant could get out, J. Leonard Neale came on the scene, with all the swaggering bombast which is his principal stock in trade. The shopkeeper did not know Neale and consequently refused to treat with him. The "expert" rent-collector thereupon retired, content apparently to bide his time.

A day or two later the tenant received a call from another blustering individual, who proudly announced that he was "an officer of the Law" and expressed his amiable intention of putting the tenant "inside Lewes Gaol." In the course of the interview, he politely addressed the shopkeeper as "a dirty stinking little tyke," and wound up his remarks with a threat to "smash his face in." It subsequently transpired that this creature was an emissary of Neale—a well-oiled cog in the rent-machine. Hired bullies are essential to the attainment of fabulous rent-rolls.

The much harassed tenant was under notice to leave the shop on April 14th. Unfortunately, he was not quite ready to give up possession on that date and he accordingly called upon Neale with a view to an amicable arrangement. Had he known his man, he might have saved his breath. "Arrangements" are beyond the ken of the "scientific" one. Neale behaved with his usual effrontery and insolence, and the tradesman came away from the interview a sadder and wiser man. In a few hours the "expert's" tame carpenters were at work. The outer door of the tenant's shop was removed. His remaining goods were temptingly displayed to the public gaze. Thieves did the rest. J. Leonard Neale had once more done his dirty work and added another glaring chapter to the record of his "scientific" prowess.

"JEKYLL AND HYDE."

PROVISION MERCHANTS' IMPISH TRICK.

We have received an advertising bill from a well-known firm of provision merchants, which is calculated to make every housewife's mouth water, and to turn all other grocers green with envy. We are offered three pounds of sugar for twopence—and the best English granulated sugar at that—while, as for margarine, the talk is not of selling but of giving, one half-pound given with each pound, one quarter pound with a half-pound, and so on.

Nor is this all. We read:

"Double 4d. Stamps Free."

Not merely is sugar and margarine thrown at you, but you are invited to carry away these priceless little green tickets which can be exchanged at the Trading Stamp Company's premises for almost any article which the heart of man can desire, from a banjo to a bedstead, or from a piano to a pin.

There are many shops where you can get Trading Stamps, but other firms dole them out in niggardly and grudging fashion. Only at the stores in question can you get them "double" and "free," and fill your books quickly and furnish your home at the expense of benevolent tradesmen.

But wait! It is rumoured that things are not what they seem. It is whispered that the Trading Stamp Company and the generous grocers are the Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde of the provision trade, and that after selling Trading Stamps to confiding dealers at a handsome profit, they then inveigle customers into the shops where the stamps are "double" and "free" and the margarine is cheap as dirt, and the sugar is overweight.

Alas, that such things could be!

Have you won 8 "Bullets" Prizes? If so, see our announcement on page 686.

THE CURSE OF OFFICIALDOM.

BURTON WOMAN'S BURNING WRONG.

The villagers of Burton-by-Lincoln are properly indignant at a vile sample of official tyranny recently perpetrated in their midst. The victim is Miss Margaret Corkindale, a highly respected old lady of eighty-six years of age, who for thirty years was housekeeper to the late Lord Oxenbridge.

Miss Corkindale is an inmate of an Almshouse, where she receives a maintenance allowance of five shillings a week. She has a small income from other sources, but is generally regarded as a woman of slender means. Twelve months ago she applied for an old age pension, and was interviewed by the local Pensions Officer. Apparently, the poor old soul was terrified by the high and mighty airs of this august official. The negotiations fell through, and there the matter would have rested but for the well-meant intervention of Mr. John Evens, a leading Lincolnshire farmer. Mr. Evens had known Miss Corkindale for forty years. He believed her to be poor, and knew her to be feeble and almost friendless. He noticed that her mental powers were weakening and that her memory was almost gone, so that she was scarce able to grasp her position or to manage her own affairs. He concluded that her failure to obtain a pension was due to her inability to give clear answers to the demands of the Pensions Officer, and, out of pure friendliness, he determined to interest himself in the matter on her behalf. He urged Miss Corkindale to renew her claim. He interviewed the Clerk of the local Pensions Committee, telling him all he knew of the applicant's financial position. This official had, apparently, been pursuing independent inquiries. He informed Mr. Evens that Miss Corkindale's affairs were in the hands of a local Bank, and that the Bank Manager was the only person who really knew the details of her income.

A SCANDALOUS SUMMONS.

Mr. Evens at once applied to the Bank. He then learned with surprise that Miss Corkindale's income was just over the limit fixed by the Old Age Pensions Act. Without a moment's hesitation, he rushed back to the Pensions Office and withdrew the claim, explaining the circumstances and apologising for any inconvenience which might have been caused. No man could do more.

The Pensions Officer, in his wisdom, reported this trivial incident to headquarters. The London authorities determined to prosecute the poor old lady for fraud. She was summoned to the Lincoln Police Court on a charge of "endeavouring to obtain a pension by means of a false representation." The summons was signed by the Mayor of Lincoln. A prosecuting solicitor was sent down from London. Miss Corkindale did not appear. She was too ill to leave her house. The Magistrates, who must have known the facts, actually issued a warrant for her arrest—and but for the intervention of the medical attendant she would doubtless have been dragged to the Court like any common felon. The doctor certified that arrest would probably be fatal, and the charge was therefore investigated in the absence of the defendant. The London solicitor appears to have conducted the case with a lamentable lack of professional dignity and with scant regard for bare decency. He was repeatedly rebuked by the Chairman. Happily his scurrilities were unavailing. The Bench treated the charge with the contempt it deserved—after hearing Mr. Evens's straightforward explanation of the circumstances, they unanimously dismissed the summons.

UNHONOURED GREY HAIRS.

But for their precipitancy in issuing a warrant, the Magistrates appear to have acted with dignity and good sense, The prosecution was an outrageous abuse of legal process. The old lady was in her dotage, incapable of understanding either her own position or the requirements of the Act. All her life she has enjoyed a high reputation for honesty and integrity. No sane man could have believed her guilty of criminal intent. Yet her fair fame has been besmirched and her very life endangered through the officious stupidity of a petty official.

"LOOK BEFORE YOU LEAP."

STUBBORN SOLDIERS AND COMPLAISANT STOKER.

A good many members of the 1st Battalion Northumberland Fusiliers, stationed at Mhow, are jibbing at being asked to take a leap in the dark. The following is a Regimental Order, issued by Lieut.-Colonel D. Septe on April 4th:—

> Officers commanding Companies will furnish a list of men in receipt of proficiency pay or service pay, who refuse to be inoculated, stating the reasons given, if any. As these men are debarred by their refusal from being available for active service, the Commanding Officer cannot consider them proficient, and will therefore have to go into the question of their proficiency and service pay.

Surely Colonel Septe's attitude is an extraordinary one. He believes that unless men are inoculated they cannot fight; he knows that a number refuse to be operated on—and instead of having them arrested, placed in the guard room, and brought before a military tribunal, he issues a threat of confiscation of their proficiency pay! Was there ever such tomfoolery? It puts one in mind of the outraged husband whose direst revenge upon the desecrator of his domestic peace was "to pinch his beer."

But perhaps, after all, these Fusiliers have very good reasons for refusing to have questionable matter injected into their bodies. Probably they have heard of, or seen, a case similar to the following:

In September, 1911, a bright, healthy lad of 19 years of age enlisted in the Royal Navy as a stoker. While on board the *Victory*, he was vaccinated on the left shoulder. A few days after the boy—by name Henry Plant—felt severe pains, and was admitted into hospital. After lying in bed for sixteen days, a syringe was forced into his left shoulder and a certain amount of fluid withdrawn from the vaccination wound. In December another operation was performed on the shoulder. From that time to February 8th, 1912, Plant was experimented upon several times, and as the medical officers could do him no good he was invalided from the service. Of course, he went home, shattered in health and heart-broken. He underwent three further operations, and eventually, on July 9th last, had to have his arm amputated from the shoulder socket. He naturally applied to the Admiralty for compensation, to receive the following cold refusal:—

> In reply to your letter, I have to inform you that in view of the medical officers' reports of the case the disease for which you are invalided from the Royal Navy cannot be regarded as attributable to the service, and as you have served for less than one year you are not eligible for any assistance under the Regulations.

Well may soldiers and sailors look before they leap!

"'TRUST' AND 'PAID FOR.'"

FIXING FRAZER'S, THE FISHY FURNISHERS.

George Frazer and Co., Ltd., of 330, Essex Road, London, N., who run the Royal Furnishing Company do not seem to be mending their ways. A Sussex man about two years ago purchased from them a suite priced at ten guineas. He was very punctual in forwarding his instalments. On March 29th he remitted 16s. 6d. as a final clearance — in order to save the 2s. which Frazer's impose as a premium of insurance on the goods against fire and in consideration of their giving the things free to the widow should the purchaser die before they had been paid for. However, instead of a receipt in full came a printed memo. asking that this premium should be forwarded with the next instalment! The customer was naturally disgusted and energetically protested, whereupon Frazer's replied that there was 15s. owing for the wrappers and crate in which the suite had been delivered. Even were this so, surely the imposition of an insurance premium of 2s. on such things would be monstrous; but, as a matter of fact, this lumber (despite Frazer's instant denial of its receipt) had been returned at the time, as the customer was able to prove by the railway company's receipt. To their invitation "If you choose to send us your payment card, it will be returned receipted in due course," their canny customer is turning a deaf ear. He has had enough of them.

After Football try Cricket. Our "Cuide" on page ii. of Cover will help you.

"THE HELPING HAND"—AND FOOT.

LEGAL AID SOCIETY TOUTS' LITTLE TRICKS.

Several of the large Metropolitan Hospitals have recently been endeavouring to raise funds by means of the issue to suburban residents of an appeal by circular for sums of not less than a shilling, it being stated that a collector will call in the course of a few days for an answer. Unfortunately, in one North London district the intimation of a coming visit on behalf of one such deserving institution immediately preceded a call from a representative of a concern in a very different category—"The Helping Hand, late Red Cross, Legal Assistance Syndicate." Calling at a good-class house, a plausible individual induced a maid-servant to allow him to interview her mistress. He then stated that a contributor would be "assisting the hospitals" and showed a hand-bill stating that the Syndicate subscribed to half a dozen, adding that a shilling would procure four letters of admission. The lady, thus helped to a hazy recollection of the hospitals' announcements, concluded that the person before her was the authorised channel, and handed over the sum requested—to get in exchange four tickets, which she had not time to examine until after the departure of her voluble visitor. These were then found to be "certificates" that a householder had paid 3d., in return for which he, his wife and family were entitled for a year to legal advice in the prosecution of a claim for damages for an accident or injury, the Syndicate taking 5 per cent. of the compensation money, as well as, doubtless, the legal costs. Even then they are not prepared to take the proverbial chances of the law—for it is stated that "no speculative business is entertained."

We have often commented upon the undesirableness of this widespread "legal aid" business—which has frequently resulted in the victim of mishap being, at the last moment, told that he must settle his action for little more than is sufficient to pay the costs—piled up by the shady solicitors in whose interest the concern is really run. In the case under notice the fraud is obvious, as the tout palmed off the four "family" tickets in one house—an establishment the occupier of which was evidently in a position to employ his own solicitor.

By the way, we should very much like to know the amount of the Syndicate's subscriptions to Guy's, St. Thomas's, St. George's, St. Bartholomew's, and the Poplar Hospitals. Its "Head Office" is a little room on the third floor at 185, Fleet Street, the rent apparently being about 7s. 6d. a week. On the door hung the hall-mark of seediness, "Return shortly." It is difficult to understand why a Legal Assistance Society should have as one of its objects the raising of funds for hospitals. Of course, we are aware that, by means of touts hanging round these institutions and waylaying the relatives of injured men, it is possible for shady individuals to obtain the business of prosecuting claims for compensation, but surely it cannot be the aim of the "Helping Hand" to obtain a footing for this purpose.

We advise any householder upon whom the "Helping Hand" touts call to extend the helping foot!

THE BEAM AND THE MOTE.

THE "CHRISTIAN HERALD" RIGHTEOUS OVERMUCH.

Last week's issue of the *Christian Herald* contained a warning to its readers "ignorant of advertising abuses" against an offer of shares by means of circulars placed inside that goody-goody paper by certain wicked news-agents—no payment of course having been received by our pious contemporary for the liberty taken with its sacred pages. We are unable to reconcile this righteously indignant attitude with the fact that in the same issue appeared a considerable number of questionable advertisements, and some the doubtfulness of which is notoriously beyond dispute—for instance, there is nearly a column full of the swindling "bargains" of Davis and Co., the bogus pawnbrokers; besides the tricky advertisement by which Dixon and Co. hope to deceive hairless hobbledehoys, and last, but not least, Whity, of Winsford's, cruel imposition upon sufferers from fits!

ARTFUL DODGERY.

PIANOFORTE PURVEYORS' PALTRY PLEA.

Messrs Godfrey and Co., Ltd., musical instrument dealers, were the defendants in a recent action at the Woolwich County Court, when they were badly beaten by one of our readers, who sued them for breach of warranty, claiming ten shillings damages. The company would have better consulted their dignity by settling the dispute out of court, and if the defence set up by their solicitor is a sample of their general dealings, it constitutes about as poor an advertisement as any firm could have.

The quarrel arose over an organ, supplied to the plaintiff by Messrs. Godfrey with the usual written warranty. The instrument quickly got out of gear, and the purchaser called upon the firm to put it right. They refused to do so, first alleging that there was nothing wrong with the organ, and subsequently suggesting that its defects were due to improper usage by the plaintiff. Ultimately the plaintiff got the organ repaired elsewhere and sued Messrs. Godfrey for the cost.

At the County Court, Godfrey's solicitor first of all endeavoured to ride off on the specious plea that the signed warranty, issued by his clients, was not legally binding inasmuch as it was not stamped. This objection being overruled by the Court, he again attempted to repudiate liability on the ground that the organ had been purchased on the hire system, and that the warranty received by the plaintiff was not applicable to instruments bought on the instalment plan.

A more amazing line of defence we have rarely seen. If the warranty required a stamp—which, in fact, it did not—it was the plain duty of the firm to inform customers of the fact, or to stamp the document themselves. If, on the other hand, the warranty in question was applicable only to cash purchases, the defendants were guilty of something very like fraud in issuing it to a hire purchase customer. By his disingenuous defence, the solicitor did his level best to convict his clients of issuing warranties which they knew to be worthless.

Happily for the firm, Judge Granger treated such shuffling with the contempt it deserved, and found for the plaintiff with costs. Had the judgment been otherwise, Messrs. Godfrey would have saved ten shillings and lost their reputation. It is not by such petty meanness that business is built up.

By the way, one of Godfrey's witnesses, according to a newspaper report, swore that the air escaped from the bellows "because the screws had not been tightly fixed"—the real fact being that the bellows were glued together; while another "expert" said that the spring in dispute "must have been damaged maliciously"—though it was encased within the glued-up reservoir!

THE PLIMSOLL MARK.

"IN PERIL ON THE SEA."

The raising of the Plimsoll mark—in some cases as much as seven inches—has resulted in a serious increase in the death rate of those who go down to the sea in ships. The deeper immersion of vessels, of course, allows them to load a considerable amount of extra cargo, and was arranged in order to prevent the ship-owners kicking too much against the extension of the Workmen's Compensation Act to seamen, and as a set-off to the extra expense incurred in the improvement in the victualling scale. However, the Board of Trade have now evidently got into a funk, and have appointed a Committee to inquire into the whole subject. It would be extraordinary with any other department that this step had not been taken earlier, for it surely must be obvious that vessels, when built, are designed to load to a certain depth, and if immersed beyond that point they at once become dull and will not rise to a sea. When the Committee are sitting, perhaps they will also enquire into the number of casualties which have occurred during the last few years through rudders being broken and carried away; and they might further ascertain whether such catastrophes are due to the craze for cheapness, resulting in inferior cast-steel rudder frames being employed.

Don't miss "Mary Bull" THIS Week. 20 Fancywork Transfers given away. Coupon Gift.

THE RECTOR AND THE CHOIR BOY.

PECULIAR CONFLICT BETWEEN PARSON AND PRESS.

"My attention has been called to a paragraph in your current issue," writes the Rev. S. E. Cottam from the Rectory in South Lowestoft, "entitled 'The Choir Boy and Rector,' in which nearly every statement is false, or has a false colouring"—surely a strong order. The reverend gentleman then proceeds to detail his denials, with only four of which are we personally concerned: "I was not hit on the nose. I did not take the surplices. I did not lock the boys out from the choir. The church was closed, not for the 'firing of a paper pellet,' but for another reason." As the Rector says so, we naturally accept his word, though thereby hangs a mystery. How came the local paper to report the occurrence thiswise:—

PELTING KIRKLEY RECTOR.

SENSATIONAL SEQUEL.

ST. MATTHEW'S CHURCH CLOSED.

There is much trouble at St. Matthew's church, Lowestoft, trouble which has arisen out of small beginnings. *As the result of a choir-boy's prank, the Rector of Kirkley* (the Rev. S. Cottam) *took the drastic step of shutting the choir out from the choir stalls* during *the Easter Sunday services and depriving them of their surplices.*

On Palm Sunday the rector was in the vestry, when a pellet of paper, it is stated, *caught him a stinging slap on the side of the face.* He demanded of the choir boys who had thrown it, but was met with a row of solemnly innocent faces, and up to Easter Sunday he had failed to find the culprit. *So on Sunday the choir-stalls at St. Matthew's were empty, and a row of choir-boys sat sans surplices* among the ordinary congregation.

The expulsion of the choir at St. Matthew's church on Sunday *in consequence of the throwing of a pellet of paper,* aimed, with more precision than respect, at the head of the rector of Kirkley (the Rev. S. E. Cottam), had a sensational sequel on Monday, when Mr. Cottam visited St. Matthew's church, and, *demanding the keys, locked up the building,* and affixed to the door the following notice:—

This church will be closed until further notice.
The Rector.

The rector's action has caused great indignation amongst the congregation of St. Matthew's. On Tuesday there was a remarkable scene in the vestry of Kirkley parish church, after the holding of the annual Easter vestry meeting.

At this meeting was the reverend gentleman challenged for an explanation of the closing of the church? Did he state in reply that ever since he came to St. Andrew's he had met with consistent opposition? Did he say that when it came to throwing things at the Rector he would put his foot down? Did he say, "You may tell me it is not fair to punish the congregation for the act of a choir boy, but I am convinced he had the congregation with him?" We have not the slightest wish to embark upon a controversy with Mr. Cottam, or to inflame any heat there may be, or may have been, between himself and the congregation of the mission church where the incident of the throwing of the pellet took place. We have our way of riveting attention on public matters, but the object in view is of more importance than the method, and we would much rather see the Rector happy with his people, and they with him, than that such indecorous and unpleasant incidents should arise among them, be the fault or failing whose it may. Certainly the Church as a spiritual institution is not profited by them. "See, how these Christians love one another," is not an edifying superscription either for the portals of St. Matthew's, Lowestoft, or any other church. Much better is the Pauline substitue, "With all lowliness and meekness, with long suffering, forbearing one another in love; endeavouring to keep the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace." So let the old days die that the new may live.

"JOHN BULL" DERBY SWEEP.

We cannot receive applications for tickets, or act as agents in remitting money in connection with this Sweepstake. ALL communications must be addressed to Patrick O'Brien, Geneva, Switzerland.

A CRUEL WRONG.

MERTHYR MAGISTRATE'S INSENSATE BLUNDER.

The little Welsh village of Ponlottyn has been stirred to its depths by a gross magisterial blunder. David Jones, a man of hitherto irreproachable character, was recently convicted of a serious offence under the Food and Drugs Act. The evidence against him was of the flimsiest description, and we are convinced that he is the victim of a grave miscarriage of justice. We are supported in this contention by the unanimous opinion of the man's friends and neighbours, who are intimately acquainted with the circumstances of his case.

In September last a milk-vendor named Matthias left Ponlottyn to visit Australia. During his absence the business was managed by his wife and daughters, and they engaged Jones to deliver milk daily to their customers in the village. It was his duty to fetch the milk from the station overnight and to deposit it in the milk-shed, where it remained till the morning. Mrs. Matthias kept the keys of the shed and Jones never had access to the place except in the company of the proprietress or one of her daughters.

On March 24th last an Inspector met Jones on his round and purchased a pint of milk. Official analysis followed, with the result that the milk was found to contain a tiny percentage of added water, which might be accounted for in a variety of ways and, what was more serious, to be markedly deficient in fat. These facts were obviously sufficient to warrant a prosecution. Proceedings were at once instituted against Matthias for selling milk of poor quality, and—for some obscure reason, or for no reason at all—the poor carrier was also summoned to answer a similar charge.

The cases were heard at the Merthyr Police Court on April 18th. In the meanwhile, Mr. Matthias had returned from Australia and was thus able to answer the summons in person. He was promptly acquitted, on the totally inadequate ground that he was abroad when the offending sample was purchased. We do not for a moment suggest that any member of the Matthias family was at fault, but we insist that Mr. Matthias's personal whereabouts was a totally irrelevant consideration. He was prosecuted because the milk came from his dairy, and it mattered not a jot whether he himself was in Ponlottyn or in Pondicherry.

Apparently, the Magistrate had made up his mind to make Jones stand in Matthias' shoes. For the purposes of the prosecution he chose to regard him as the vendor; although he had no sort of interest in the business and was merely a hired servant receiving a paltry sovereign a week, he was none the less held solely responsible, convicted, and fined £15.

There is not a man in Ponlottyn who believes him to be guilty. On all hands he is regarded as the victim of a cruel wrong. He cannot pay the money and, but for the charity of friends, must inevitably have been imprisoned for an offence which was never proved against him and of which he has been unanimously acquitted in the court of public opinion.

There was not sufficient evidence to convict either the milk-vendor or his man. The milk probably came to Ponlottyn from a considerable distance, and there were doubtless many opportunities for it to be tampered with *en route*. Matthias and Jones were equally entitled to acquittal. Justice was speedily accorded to the prosperous dealer. But the poor hireling must pay the penalty of some unknown trickster's crime!

We congratulate Howard Latimer, Ltd.—if we mistake not, comparatively fresh recruits to the army of publishers—upon the care which they have evidently bestowed upon Mr. Ford Madox Heuffer's new novel, "Mr. Fleight." The book, which is published at 6s., is indeed worthy of clear type, good paper and careful reading. Mr. Heuffer's style is delightful—the structure of his sentences irreproachable, his epigrams polished and pointed. The student of politics will find much material for comparison in the skilful delineation of the characte of the tradesman plutocrat from whom the book takes its title, and the interesting circle into which his wealth admits him.

Your LAST CHANCE to win Our £1,000 Cricket Prize. Final Coupon.

"JOHN BULL'S" WEEKLY CINEMA.

BULL-DOGGEREL RHYMES BY "THE BOW-WOW."

The R.A. opens once again,
But those who hope to see
Some progress in the world of art
Will disappointed be.

Stern bobbies raid the suffragettes
And gather evidence
That goes to prove the militants
A danger and offence.

The erstwhile mighty Thunderer
A tuppenny touch becomes—
But still the price is far too high
For democratic homes.

John Bull the Soap King's gift accepts,
As in the sketch you see 'em;
And Stafford House will henceforth be
The Londoner's Museum.

Although old age comes creeping on—
A fact that none can shirk—
Our judges, do'ler though they may,
Are always fit for work (?).

Because the Bill was introduced
By Tories, Mr. Burns
Ignores the good that it might do
And its provisions spurns.

A PENAL CODE.

MANCHESTER UNITY A LAW UNTO THEMSELVES.

The Manchester Unity of Oddfellows is doubtless an excellent organisation, but, like other human institutions, it is fallible. One of our readers recently complained to us of the treatment he had received at the hands of his Lodge. He had been engaged in a prolonged but fruitless correspondence with the General Secretary of the Order, and at last, in desperation, he broke off the negotiations and informed the officials that he had placed the facts in our hands.

For some reason or other, this information seems to have put the General Secretary into a blue funk. He at once wrote to our correspondent directing his attention to the General Rules of the Order and citing certain of them by number. We have glanced at these regulations, which are, of course, binding upon every member of the society, and we are bound to say that the Manchester Unity evinces a morbid dread of criticism or complaint.

What may be called the "criminal law" of the Order, is to be found at the end of the Rule Book, where it is reasonably safe from the prying eyes of prospective members. We read:—

> If any member prefers a charge against another member and the same be brought before the lodge and proved to be false, he shall for such offence be fined seven shillings.

Mark the tribunal—the charge is to be investigated *by the lodge*. In other words, a man who brings an accusation against a fellow-member, or a complaint against an official, must apparently stand or fall by a chance vote of a lodge meeting, which may obviously be influenced by all sorts of considerations having little or no relation to the facts in dispute.

A member who has been "defeated" at a lodge meeting may naturally desire to give his case a wider publicity.

> Any member circulating any article or document so as to bring any other member into contempt shall, on proof thereof, be expelled or suffer such suspension or fine, not exceeding five pounds, as a meeting of the lodge, district, or directors may think proper to inflict.

By this time the grumbler will probably have had enough. If he retains enough spirit to carry the matter further, he will do so at his peril. Should he be sufficiently ill-advised to bring an action against his foe, it is decreed:—

> That any district, lodge, or member shall be held responsible for any law expenses which may be incurred by their action, and the amount thereof shall be recoverable by legal process as a penalty.

Does this mean, as it appears to mean, that an aggrieved member who is involved in litigation with a lodge or an official, must pay his opponent's costs in any event? We cannot believe that the Registrar of Friendly Societies would sanction any such enormity.

We have no desire to indulge in vexatious criticism. The Manchester Unity of Oddfellows is a great, and in many ways a beneficent, institution. We think, however, that its directors would be well advised to modify these somewhat arbitrary provisions and to content themselves with the measure of legal protection afforded by the law of the land.

A New "Bullets" Feature. "Continuous Merit" Prizes. Cash waiting.

A FOXY TALE.

POTTY POTTER'S PLAUSIBLE PIFFLE.

In our "City Notes" of April 12th we lightly touched upon an extraordinary document circulated through the post by W. J. Potter, of 26, Shaftesbury Avenue. At the time we thought he was just one of those midges which, tradition tells us, spring into pestiferous life in the morning and die in the evening. Upon enquiry, however, we find that he has claim to a more prominent niche in these columns, being indeed somewhat in the nature of a "big bug."

The Canadian Arctic Exploration Syndicate is the latest venture of the versatile Potter, and formed the basis of our recent criticism of his methods. From a prospectus now before us we learn that the public are being asked to subscribe £30,000 (apparently the amount has recently been raised by £10,000) in shares of £1 each. The bait is that the leader of the expedition has had allocated to him by the Canadian Government land in Northern Canada measuring 100 miles by 30 miles. This land is not only said to be rich in minerals—we are told that one belt of copper measuring 17 miles long by 15 miles wide has already been discovered—but white and blue foxes, whose skins will sell at £1,000 each, are practically awaiting the coming of the Potter Expedition in order that they may give up their lives in the hope of the life eternal on the back of Lady Glad Eye. The Expedition is planned to start from England not later than June next. The reason for the hurry is, no doubt, the pathetic appeals of the blue and white foxes which are waiting to come to Shaftesbury Avenue. "Only once," said the prospectus, "has the district under consideration been intelligently explored, and that was by the Canadian Government Scientific Exploration ship the *Arctic*, which reached home only last May."

We must confess our astonishment at reading this as we hold the official certificate issued by the Marine and Fisheries Department of Canada, recording the discharge of the *Arctic* at the Port of Quebec in November, 1912.

We interviewed the seaman to whom this document belonged, who told us emphatically that during the expedition two or three blue foxes only were seen.

A HUNT FOR POTTER.

Having finished our talk with this seaman, we invited him to accompany us in a hunt for Potter. On reaching 26, Shaftesbury Avenue, we met with a disappointment. There was no stuffed blue fox over the doorway to serve as a landmark. After mounting four flights of stairs and carefully scanning each door as we passed, we failed to find either the name of Potter or the Canadian Arctic Exploration Syndicate. A few enquiries, however, and we were referred to a room on the third floor, the doorplate of which bore the inscription, "King Edward National and Imperial Memorial." Our enquiries were answered by a young lady, who informed us that Mr. Potter was not in, and that "he is usually very busy and cannot see you except by appointment." However, our object had been accomplished. We had fixed Potter.

WHO IS POTTER?

In 1911 a scheme was placed before the public by Potter for the purchase of the Crystal Palace for the nation as a memorial to the late King Edward. We need not here go into the details of the scheme, except to state that Potter managed to get a number of well-known people to form what he called a "Grand Council." Meetings were held all over the metropolis, and a considerable amount of money by way of subscriptions was obtained from the public—one of the receipts which we have before us is number 45,000—yet several of our readers who subscribed tell us that up to this day they have failed to get either a statement of accounts or the return of their money.

We advise our readers to have nothing to do with either W. J. Potter or his blue foxes. They should take a hint from the ancients. A fox's tail was one of the badges of the motley, and to flap with a fox's tail—in the way Potter is desirous of doing—was therefore to treat as a fool the person operated upon. At any rate, after this warning, we are sure that our readers will show that there are no flies on them!

A CORRUPT COUNCILLOR.

WHITEWASH FOR A MILTON REGIS SURVEYOR.

Evidently the ratepayers of Whitstable lost nothing in getting rid of Mr. C. D. Richardson as a member of the District Council, and, to be equally candid, we do not think the Milton Regis Council would lose anything by getting rid of Mr. W. R. Warlow, their Surveyor. We need not enter minutely into the details of the transactions between the two men as revealed in the Sittingbourne County Court, where Warlow sued Richardson for £20, "money lent," as he said. The short facts are that, while Warlow was offering in competition with others a sewage disposal scheme, Richardson, then a member of the Whitstable Council, borrowed, or was presented with sums amounting to £20. "Whether the amount sued for was a gift or a loan," says the judge in the action, "I am convinced it was given by the plaintiff with the corrupt and illegal intention of influencing the conduct and vote of the defendant as a member of the Whitstable Urban Council in respect of the plaintiff's scheme of sewage, and was accepted by the defendant with knowledge of the plaintiff's intention. As such, I am of opinion that the amount cannot be recovered by action. Judgment will therefore be entered for the defendant."

That is explicit. There can be no mistake about its meaning. These two men, the one a councillor, the other a contractor to the council, entered into a corrupt bargain for the benefit of both of them. Mr. Richardson is no longer a member of the Whitstable Council, and we have therefore no further concern with him. With Mr. Warlow the case is different, and we have been waiting to see how the Milton Regis Council would regard it in its relation to his public work as their Surveyor before commenting on the disclosures.

We now find that Mr. Warlow is to be whitewashed. On the condition that he does not again take outside work, the Council have determined to continue his appointment, though it must be evident to them that he is in a position where his peculiar talent is not without scope for employment. A public official who is capable of entering into a corrupt and illegal bargain in one place is capable of entering into a corrupt and illegal bargain in another. There is no gainsaying the risk.

CUM GRANO.

COCOA NEITHER GRATEFUL NOR COMFORTING.

"Diet and Exercise for Training, With Special Article on Training for Football. By C. B. Fry," is being so extensively advertised for sale at threepence that probably a great many people will regard the whole thing as being very much in the nature of an imposition when they have bought it. It is obviously written in the interests of a certain cocoa firm. The inside cover is a page of cocoa. On page 31, Fry says a man in training can improve the nitrogenous constituents of his diet by the substance which christens a certain cocoa. On page 39, he again puffs the stuff as "an article of training diet." On page 40 he remarks that "it justifies all that is claimed for it." On the same page, he adds that by making it a regular article of diet an athlete can reduce his meat to a minimum. On page 41, he asserts the value of such a food is obvious. On the same page he remarks, once more, that athletes who wish to increase their nitrogenous constituents should add it to their milk and puddings. Turning over the pages we expect to see him recommending athletes to try it in their bath, only to find him inviting them to take two teaspoonsful three times a day. On page 57, he recommends it to footballers. On page 59, he says it is a desirable thing in biscuits after the morning bath; also good in cocoa; while on page 59 (the last) it becomes helpful in potatoes and successful in stewed fruit.

There is no special objection to Mr. Fry indulging in this insistent puffery if it pleases him, but there is an objection to the public being called on to pay threepence net in advance for it in the belief that they are about to receive a book worthy of Mr. Fry's reputation on dietetic values in athletics.

For Result of Our Final Football Contest, see page 657.

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4/6 POST FREE IN U.K. ... ... ABROAD, 5/-

. . This hat can be obtained from any of our branches except the Gracechurch Street one, or post free from our Mail Order Dept., at 388, Strand. In ordering by post please state the size of hat usually worn, and the Colour required. Remittances must accompany all orders, but the hat will be exchanged (if not approved) or money refunded. Please mention "John Bull" when ordering.

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OUR ADVICE.

We hear a lot nowadays about the scarcity of men who are capable of earning as much as £5 a week and the struggle for existence of the thousands of men who are not able to demand more than 30s. a week to keep their wives and families.

Although in a few cases "bad luck" may be the reason, there is no disguising the fact that every man has his future in his own hands, more or less, and it is the man who realises this fact that is constantly on the look-out for opportunities for safeguarding himself against unemployment and for improving his present wage by making himself worth more money to either his present employer or a fresh one. No matter what his present occupation is, he is the kind of man who says to himself, "I will lose no time in fitting myself to enter the Motor Industry, which is now in its infancy, and which offers by far the best chances to smart men, and I will call or write at once to the Motor Industry's training centre:—The British School of Motoring, Coventry House, 5 and 6, Coventry Street, Piccadilly Circus, W. (opposite the Prince of Wales Theatre, near Leicester Square), for their Free Illustrated Prospectus (J) on how to obtain instruction in Practical Motoring and how to get a berth in the Motor Industry."

This is the kind of man who succeeds—he does not rely upon his present job or trade: he sees that he has two strings to his bow. He is the smart man—are you one also?

SMOKE! SMOKE! SMOKE!

A NICE LITTLE "FLUTTER" FOR A SMALL TEA-PARTY.

The dreamy Egyptian cigarette seems to go well with glittering mirages of financial castles in the air—this possibly forms the *raison d'être* of the Agence de Commerce Etranger, Limited, 14, Grafton Street, New Bond Street, W.—a concern formed to sell, at high prices, the delicate little rolls of paper and tobacco as well as the concomitant coffee and tea, the make-weight being the alluring prospect of acquiring a fortune by means of lottery bonds. Although the transaction is described in the long and elaborate 20-page document as an investment "returning a good rate of interest," we take the liberty of doubting it.

DOUBTFUL "CERTIFICATES."

In the multitude of rules there may be wisdom, but it is not easily attained by the ordinary reader of this mazy prospectus. It would, however, appear that the main principle is the purchase of one or more certificates at 4s. each, the buyer of which, in addition, is bound to pay for a fixed minimum of goods—thus, the holder of one certificate is compelled to take at least two dozen cigarettes every fortnight; if he acquires eight shares he must purchase at least eight dozen. A somewhat similar sliding scale applies to the tea. In each case the stuff is expensive—the cigarettes range in price from 6d. to 2s. a dozen, while the tea is charged for at 2s. 2d. to 8s. a pound. However, the transaction is described as "a small outlay and a large return"—the justification apparently being that the "purchaser participates every three months in premiums to the value of over £9,000, besides sharing in the profits." These premiums, it seems, are guaranteed by lottery bonds of the City of Paris and Crédit Foncier. Every "investor" (shade of Mr. Lloyd George!) of 4s. is given a chance of obtaining 1-64th part of the *premium* which *may* be declared on the bond in which he holds his small share. It is not stated how many hundreds of thousands of bonds compete every quarter for the £8,000 worth of premiums—but should the cigarette capitalist be fortunate enough to be the "needle in the haystack" and the bond in his name be drawn for the highest prize, he will, of course, get £125. The other prizes, with the exception of half-a-dozen, are insignificant. The bonds themselves are held by the Company, and from the premiums on the portions not fully taken up by the customers it is apparently anticipated that interim dividends and bonuses will be paid, after sufficient has been deducted to provide 12 per cent. interest on the 4s. certificates. This hunting of fortune in the shape of lottery prizes is very much like chasing a will-o'-the-wisp, for the bonds on which the rare premiums are payable will not, in the vast majority of cases, be redeemed for many years.

GIVING UP THE GAME.

The utter hopelessness of the insane gamble seems to have dawned upon many of the "investors," for we learn that no less than 60 customers of one of the Company's agents have refused to continue at the game, and have demanded the refunding of their stakes, or, at least, the certificate money. It naturally took some time for the punters to understand that they stood but one chance in probably a million of obtaining any substantial return for the excess in the prices of the Company's commodities. At last, however, as nothing came to them except the expensive tea and cigarettes, they "tumbled" to the fact that it was unprofitable to throw a mackerel to catch a sprat.

The whole business is, of course, illegal, but our condemnation of it is not based upon that ground. It is not a fair gamble. The speculators do not get a proper run for their money, inasmuch as they are not told clearly that they have so infinitesimal a chance of obtaining the bait that is dangled before them. On the contrary, they are allowed to believe that they are engaged in a highly profitable commercial transaction, which is to obtain an extraordinarily "good interest"!

By the way, it is stated that 12 per cent. interest on the certificates is payable on 1st January and 1st July. Will the Agence de Commerce Etranger tell us whether this dividend has ever been paid, and, if so, the date when it was last distributed?

HUMAN DOCUMENT.—CCXLV.

[In this column every week we publish particulars of some human derelict whose case, after full investigation, we are able to recommend to the charity of our readers. We are happy to say that in this way we have already been the means of bringing comfort into many a wretched home. All amounts subscribed are duly acknowledged, and no deduction of any kind is made by us.]

HUSBAND IN HOSPITAL—BAILIFF IN HIS CHAIR.

We consider it is monstrous that a stranger is allowed by law to enter a working man's dwelling and settle himself there until a small debt is satisfied. Here is a typical case. Through ill-health, the father of a family of three was unable to continue work. First of all, small articles of value were pawned to provide food for his wife and little ones. When these came to an end, the best of the family's clothing went to "uncle's"; after which most of the furniture had to be disposed of to satisfy nature's demands. Even with all these sacrifices, rent got behind; and although the modest dwelling the little family live in is rented at only 8s. a week, they were soon in arrears to the extent of a couple of sovereigns. Nor was this the only misfortune. The man, becoming worse, had to be removed to the Infirmary, and there he is likely to remain for some weeks. The first intimation of the sad state of affairs we received from the poor woman herself, who came to us to complain—not of her extreme poverty—but that the privacy of her living apartments had been destroyed by the bailiff of the landlord, who had levied execution upon the few remaining pieces of furniture. After investigation, we paid out the bailiff, and provided a little money to buy food. No doubt some of our readers would like to assist further.

We have received the following amounts, which we have duly forwarded to the subjects of the "Human Documents" named:

CCXXIV.—E. H. (Alberta), 20s. 6d.
CCXXX.—H. J., 2s. 6d.
CCXXXVII.—H. J., 2s. 6d.
CCXL.—H. M., 1s. 6d.; "Pie Pusher," 4s.; H. D., 2s. 6d.; "Sympathy," 10s.
CCXLI.—"Sympathizer," 1s.
CCXLII.—"Jack and Molly," 1s.; X. Y. Z., 10s.
CCXLIII.—W. S., 5s.; Mrs. E. C. H., 5s.; Y. A., 5s.; D. D., 2s. 6d.; W. W., 6d.; H. N., 1s.; A. H., 3d.; C. D. C., 1s.; "A Helper," 1s.; G. B. T., 2s. 6d.; D. O. W. T., 2s. 6d.; "Don," 6d.; G. W., £1; M. A. G., 6d.; "A Porter," 2s.; "Roman Catholic," 2s. 6d.; "Ex-Matloe," 5s.; P. L. H., 1s.
CCXLIV.—"Ivy Mary," 5s.; A. F., 1s.; L. H., 1s.; "Anonymous," 3d.; "Chief Steward," (s.s. *Teuce*), 12s; F. McA., 5s.; "Bullet K. L.," 2s. 6d.; R. H., 1s.; "Devonian," 6d.; E. L. B., 6d.; E. M. H., 3d.; "Elstow," 1s.; W. F., 1s.; W. C., 2s.; A. H. L., 1s.; R. P., 6d.; A. S. T., 2s.; M. T., 3d.

WE gratefully acknowledge the receipt of 5 guineas from Mr. W. Vernon Gledhill, and £3 from Mr. R. M. Davie, the winners of the first prizes in our 28th and 24th "Bullets" Competitions, respectively. These amounts we will utilise in the granting of immediate relief to urgent cases.

COLLECTING BOXES.

By the kindness of many of our readers we are enabled to add to our "Human Document" fund by means of collecting boxes, which they are good enough to place on their premises. We shall be glad to hear from others willing to assist in this work.

LONDON.—Mr. A. C. Trout, 3, Highgate Hill, 2s. 3d.; Mr. W. Smith, 83, Blackstock Rd., 3s. 1d.; Mr. H. Thurston Burr, "Café Shamrock," 467, Forè St., Lr. Edmonton, 5s.; Mr. A. H. Standbrook, "Old Clay Hall," Old Ford Rd., 1s. 4d.; Mr. E. Underwood, "Bromley Arms," Fairfield Rd., Bow, 1s. 1½d.; Mr. B. Barney, 154, Kentish Town, Rd., 1s. 11½d.
LEEDS.—Mr. E. A. Engehausen, 10a, Kingston Rd., Woodhouse Lane, 3s. 6d.; Mr. S. Alban, 7, Camp Rd., 1s. 9d.; Mr. J. T. Rothwell, Cemetery Tavern, Burmantofts, 2s. 5d.; Mr. B. Pullen, North Tavern, North St., 1s. 6d.
LEICESTER.—Mr. G. Dakin, "Shaftesbury Hotel," Conduit St., 2s. 1½d.; Mr. T. Cramp, 49, Haynes Rd., 2s. 1d.; Miss M. Niblett, Albion St., 1s. 10½d.; Mr. P. Bedford, 153, Upper Kent St., 1s. 2d.
CROYDON.—Mr. G. Heath, c.o. Messrs. G. Carter and Son, 19, Church St., 4s. 6d.
SOUTHSEA.—Mrs. V. G. King, 81, St. Roman's Av., 4s. 6½d.
BRIGHTON.—Mr. W. D. Parker, 92, Preston Drive, 1s.; Messrs. Mantell and James, 1 and 2, Arundel Rd., 1s. 7d.
FAVERSHAM.—Mr. J. Duran, 14, East Street, 2s.
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CONSOLATION.

OLD LADY (*with fear*): "Are there ever any persons lost in this river, boatman?
FERRYMAN: "Bless yer, no; we allus finds 'em agin the next day!"

HOW I COMMENCED.

LIFE STORIES OF EMINENT MEN AND WOMEN.

By "Retlaw."

MR. F. HANDEL BOOTH, M.P.

As my friends—and enemies too, for that matter—seem to think it likely that my name will appear in the next honours list, "for services rendered," I willingly respond to the invitation of the Editor of JOHN BULL to give a brief account of my beginnings and endeavour to trace some of the causes which have led me to the exalted position in the councils of the nation which I at present occupy.

I was born in 1867, the year that Hermit won the Derby at 1000 to 15. A bitter controversy raged between my parents during the first week of my existence as to what name I should be given. My mother, thinking she could detect indications of musical genius in my lofty brow, decided on Handel, and when my mother decided on anything, it was enough. Had she foreseen the possibility of her son winning a title in the cause of humanity, as represented by the Radical party in the House of Commons, she would doubtless have reconsidered her decision, for according to my friends' prognostications and comments that have appeared in certain comic papers, I soon shall have two handles to my name, which is one more than any reasonable man requires.

I was educated at Bolton-le-Moor High School, and it was at that ancient and venerable seat of learning that I first developed a taste for public speaking. Being the biggest boy in my form, although usually at the bottom of it, I would gather, by *force majeur*, my unfortunate schoolmates around me in a quiet corner of the playing fields, and harangue them for an hour at a stretch about nothing in particular—a talent that stood me in good stead in after years.

Leaving school I entered into trade, and became a cotton manufacturer. In that capacity I acquired the ability to spin a good yarn and stretch out the thread of an argument interminably. Also a way of bobbin' up at the right moment.

Realising my abilities to the full, I determined to enter Parliament. In 1900, therefore, I contested King's Lynn; but they weren't having any. However, in 1911 I was rewarded by being returned member for Pontefract.

Once in the House of Commons I made my presence felt—and heard. At first I was mistaken by some of my colleagues for a member of the Booth family, of Salvation Army notoriety. But I soon lived that down, and was presently accepted by the House as a native humorist of no mean powers. My ambition, however, was to be taken seriously; but it was not until the early part of 1913 that my chance came.

One night I suddenly realised that the Government were in danger of a snap division. If we could only gain time all would be well. With the exception of myself all the few Radical Members in the House had exhausted themselves, and sat like deflated gas bags on the green benches. At any moment a division might be called. I realised the danger, and whispered to myself, "Not in these trousers. Up, Booth, and at 'em."

I rose, and began to speak. I have forgotten what the subject was. Indeed, to adapt the words of a famous song, I knew not what I was saying, but I went on saying it all the same. Meanwhile the Whips were at work, and Radical members came hurrying into the House by twos and threes. And I went on talking.

At last I could see that the Government were safe, and, with a short but brilliant peroration, I dropped back into my seat. I had saved the Empire! And, it is whispered, won a title.

My services on the Marconi Committee I will say nothing about. They belong to the present rather than to the past.

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OPEN LETTERS AND POSTCARDS.

To the Right Hon. H. H. Asquith, M.P.

DEAR MR. ASQUITH,—I gather that you contemplate the appointment of a Select Committee for the reform of Parliamentary procedure, and I sincerely hope you mean business. The present clumsy and dilatory procedure is utterly unsuited to the needs of a modern State. I beg you to forget Party for once, and to act courageously in the interests of national efficiency. But how on earth have you come to nominate a teetotal tub-thumper like Sir Thomas Whittaker, as Chairman? Spicer, in the Marconi chair, is bad enough!

JOHN BULL.

To Viscount Haldane, Lord High Chancellor.

DEAR VISCOUNT,—The Royal Commission on Delay in the King's Bench Division has urged the appointment of another judge, and I presume you will act upon their recommendation. I am still of opinion that additional judges are unnecessary. But if we must have another of them, do, please, give us a man of the right stamp. He must, of course, be a sound lawyer, but this is by no means the only essential. The judicial bench should not be a haven of rest for elderly practitioners seeking respite from the heat and burden of the day.

The exacting duties of the King's Bench Division demand the services of men at the summit of their powers. Moreover, at the moment, there is pressing need for a man of business aptitude with faculties sharpened in the rough and tumble of commercial practice. There are at least a dozen likely men. I beg you to consider each claim on its merits, without regard to the "fancies" of the Temple or the gossip of the Inns—or the hints of the Whips!

JOHN BULL.

To the Right Hon. John Burns, M.P., President of the Local Government Board.

DEAR JOHN,—I see that you have actually been nominated as Secretary of the Amalgamated Society of Engineers—and have very properly declined the honour. Cheeky dogs!

Why will people keep raking up the past and throwing it in your teeth that you once earned your living as a working engineer? Not that there's anything to be ashamed of in that—perish the thought! I guarantee you could hold your own with the best of them. But when a man is in the Cabinet with Levee suits, silver buckles, stars and garters and all the rest, people might surely let bygones be bygones.

Then there are those lewd fellows who gibe about your £5,000 a year. Don't mind them. Envy prompts their unworthy sneers.

Tell them from me that you are almost the only man on the Front Bench who earns his pay—and sticks to his job.

JOHN BULL.

To A. A. Hopkins, Esq., Police Magistrate, Lambeth.

LEARNED SIR,—Was it affectation or ignorance, or a little of each? A poor woman recently applied to you for a bit of advice about the Insurance Act. She had earned the maternity benefit and couldn't get it. In reply to her very reasonable questions, you said, "I really cannot tell you—you had better take other advice about it." Was that really the best you could do?

Couldn't you have considered the matter, or looked at a book—or even consulted your Clerk? It was rather hard to send the woman empty away, and it looked so bad to say you didn't know. You see, you are paid a high salary on the strength of your legal knowledge, and the public have a sort of idea that you ought to be up in these things.

May I respectfully refer you to Section 67 of Part I of the Act? Shall I lend you our office copy?

JOHN BULL.

To Earl Curzon, House of Lords.

DEAR EARL,—I observe that you are urging the desirableness of a non-Party conference upon questions of national defence. I trust you will continue to lend to the project the full weight of your authority, and that your patriotic efforts will be crowned with success. What did you think of Shrewsbury?

JOHN BULL.

To the Rev. C. H. Malden, Rector of St. Peter's with Holy Cross, Canterbury.

REV. FRIEND,—My sympathy is with you. Here have you been advertising up hill and down dale for three months, and probably praying in addition, and yet not one curate cometh unto you, and you are not the only case. We are presently coming to one man one vote and one woman one perambulator, and, I believe, we are not far off one parish one parson. Young men seem to have come to the conclusion that the Church does not pay them as well for curing souls as Yarmouth would pay them for curing bloaters.

One curate writes to inform me that he wouldn't run errands for another vicar's missus and take other people's little boys for long walks if he received twice the money. Another rev. brother asks me what's the good of being an Oxford B.A. and reading the lessons twice every Sunday if one does not earn enough to keep the holes out of one's socks? Still another certificated toiler in the vineyard tells me he doesn't see much difference between a vicar and a curate, except that the vicar does most of the fancy work and the curate does most of the tea-fighting; therefore he "would like to know" why the Church does not distribute salaries more equally. According to him, curates are dying out because they can't get a living—and there you are. I do hope you will be able to manage somehow, even if you have to cut down the sermons and cut up the tea buns. Of course, if I do hear of a good man who cannot find anything better to do at the price I will send him along, even if he has to patch his never-mention-thems himself.

JOHN BULL.

To Sir Laurence Gomme, Clerk to the London County Council.

SIR,—A workman recently sought to obtain compensation from your Council for injuries received in his employment. His claim went to arbitration, and in the course of proceedings at the West London County Court your Counsel endeavoured to show that the man's injuries were due to his own negligence. To this end he "put in" certain signed admissions, and it transpired that these were extracted from the unfortunate victim less than two hours after the occurrence of the accident.

Prostrate with shock and racked with pain, the wretched man was badgered by your representative into admissions which might serve your purpose on the day of trial! Was this outrage perpetrated by your orders—and if so, what have you to say in defence of so barbarously indecent a proceeding? On behalf of the ratepayers of London, I demand an answer.

JOHN BULL

To Ex-Superintendent Frank Froest, J.P.

DEAR SUPERINTENDENT,—Forgive the old title. It is so hard to realise you are no longer a policeman. And now I see they have made you a magistrate for the County of Somerset, whither you have retired to enjoy the repose and leisure accorded you by a grateful nation.

I have no doubt you are duly sensible of the high dignity of your new position, and I trust you have an equally adequate sense of its responsibilities. The elevation of a police officer to the seat of justice is, as far as I know, without precedent. You will need to proceed warily. Scotland Yard methods will be utterly out of place on the magisterial bench. Never for a moment allow yourself to forget that our law presumes a man innocent till he is proven guilty. There may be times when, from ingrained habit, you will be tempted to reverse this honoured maxim. Keep a watch on yourself. You will be closely observed. *Fiat Justitia!*

JOHN BULL.

To Alderman Morgan Thomas, Lord Mayor, Cardiff.

MY DEAR LORD MAYOR,—A few words only. In a recent speech at Swansea you told your audience that you "could not understand a man being a member of any church of Christ who declined to be a total abstainer." This is precisely one of the differences between you and Christ. He declined to be a total abstainer.

JOHN BULL.

Have you Won 8 "Bullets" Prizes? If so, see our announcement on page 686.

A LARGER ORDER.

P.C. McKENNA: "And what about *him*, John—am I to take him too?"

PRISONERS AT THE BAR.

LORD ALFRED DOUGLAS.

By Herbert Vivian.

Alfred Bruce Douglas, you that are the prisoner at the Bar, hold up your hand.

Let me shortly review the various pleas which have been urged by counsel in extenuation. Youthful indiscretions and the cruelty of raking them up now that you are striving to lead a clean life; your poetic gifts; your noble ancestry.

But remember that you have only yourself to blame for this revival of your disgrace. The present generation had almost forgotten the whole ugly story of Oscar Wilde. Many were disposed to give you the benefit of doubts, seeing that you had never been convicted or even tried. You had begun to creep back into Society, despite your intimate association with unwashed scribes in the pot-houses of Leicester Square. Then your insatiable craving for notoriety impelled you to plunge into a mad action for libel, and the whole ignominy of your career stood revealed.

Documents which had been deliberately buried in the British Museum were brought to light and showed us that, while honour may still survive among thieves, even the primitive instincts of fidelity are non-existent among abnormal men. Your affectionate letters, your obscene jests, your idolatry of filth, your mawkish ecstasies, your childish vanity were all laid bare. If there has been any cruelty about recent revelations, it was self-inflicted.

Oh! but you have repented! I am not so sure. We have only your word for it, and you were not very convincing in the witness-box. At any rate, you did not convince juries. I dare say that middle age has calmed your passionate ardours. But what joy can there be, in Heaven or on earth, over your regeneration? What does it amount to?

You have edited a scurrilous little paper, which was harmless only because it had no circulation; you have pronounced on "grammar's darkest rules" with appropriate obscurity; like a poacher turned gamekeeper, you have harried publishers over peccadilloes, denouncing poor novels which, beside your own work, were as driven snow; you have signalised your piety as a new-born Catholic by committing a criminal libel on your father-in-law. It is not a very encouraging record of repentance.

Yes, but you are a poet! We have it on your own authority that your sonnets rival, if they do not surpass, those of Shakespeare and Milton. I confess that I have found your verses sorry doggerel and deadly dull, even when you chose Mr. Crosland as the inspiration of your Muse. But even admitting the gift you claim so noisily, there must be some limit to a poet's licence. Many poets have been unconventional. Shakespeare was a poacher, Byron loved many strange women, Poe was a sot. Still, they were comparatively clean sinners. While *you* . . . !

My Brother Darling made much of your exceptional opportunities and high position. I do not lay so much stress on them. You had just the ordinary middle class education at a public school and an University—which is to say, no education at all. You are commonly called Lord Alfred Douglas, but that is only a courtesy title, and in law you are plain Mr. Douglas. Not that lordship commands much consideration nowadays, except perhaps with housemaids. So there was nothing special to expect from you by reason of your training and title.

Indeed, your hereditary taint may have made it difficult for you to behave like a gentleman. The name of Queensberry is associated with fisticuffs rather than with the amenities of life. And the Douglases, taken as a race, are not people to be proud of. Still, your shame for your family need not have prompted you to compare your father with Jack the Ripper, and your threats against his life can only have been due to parricidal mania.

If I do not punish you according to the full severity of the law, it is because I regard you as more than half a lunatic.

I should like to sentence you to be torn to pieces by wild surgeons, but I must temper justice with mercy. The sentence of the Court is and the Court doth award that you be detained in close confinement, attended only by female warders, during His Majesty's pleasure.

MORE LETTERS FROM JANE ANN.

15E, Tiddler Terrace,
Tottenham.

Dear Jannit,—I can quite bleeve what you say about your home being full of mellow-dy by day. Shouldn't wonder it you have fes-tivity by night when the Summer gets into full blast. That being the time when Nachure most re-joices, and the chem-mist puts instant death in the front win-dow. Small tins, two for three ha'pence.

As for mellow-dy, there reelly isn't any-thing like the sweet voices of the children. Not for the up-lifting of the sole. Many a dream-less night have I spent lissening to the an-jellic chorus.

It ain't likely to hap-pen again in my case though—not in the same way, not with other people's kids. I'll watch it.

Of course, dear, lots and lots depends upon manidgement in the home. Speshally if on top of the children there's a man to be pro-vided for. Men being such helpless ducks.

The lady teacher at a school I once went to, said she didn't hold much with live stock about the house—she being a single per-son and likely to re-main—but there ought to be room for two little bares in every home she said, and they should be called Bare and Forbare.

From what I saw in Scawtland speshally during the windy season, I should think the cher-rubs in your happy dwel-ling must be jolly well All Bare most of the time. They can't help being so if cos-tewmed like their father whom I remember quite well. Many and many a time have I observed his gy-rations in storm and stress of whether.

P'raps that's why your lot can so thurrowly shreek their infant joy, not having any-thing on their little minds as it were.

If your john isn't getting any more wages than he was when I knew him, I don't see how he could keep them covered, not unless he tints them from the bucket he uses for sheep-marking.

Still, no doubt they're very love-ly to contem-plate, speshally the night when they all get a wash and brush-up. Hallo Een I think it is.

And if your john plays those rag-time things when the family's venting its de-light, I should think you get some 'xciting times now and then.

I almost wonder you don't get con-fewsed.

You do sur-prise me about your figger devellop-ment, dear. I can't make head or tail of the piece of string you sent in your letter. If you go all the way you must have a figger something like a bus. But then if you only go up to the first not you can't have any more devellopment than a jar of pickles. I reelly don't know which is which or what to think. Seems to me you ought to be in hospital.

My young gentle-man is thurrowly in earnest about our entering the marrid state.

Someone told him he ought to be getting things for the home, some useful trifle as a prelim-minary.

He came to me about it, but I reelly couldn't help him, not knowing for certain what a prelim-minary was, or whether we should need one just at first.

How-ever, we had a heart to heart talk over the bisniss, after which he de-cided to make a start as ad-vised, so he went out and bought a pail.

Must have cost him very ex-pensive. Blue and white decko-rations and a picksher of a gentle-man in a brass waste-coat standing on a rock. The shop person said it repre-sents A. Jacks defy-ing the lightning. To make a pair we shall have Mrs. Jacks on the knife-box.

I don't think I should worry about that instruck-shun in the maggazeen—about doing a good turn every day, I meen.

You can't leave your little famly, queen, and go round asking people if they want a good turn. Tain't likely.

If you reelly want to do a good turn, one to make the coming fewcher easier for all parties, best thing you can do is to stay at home and turn the mat-tress.

I think, dear friend, that's about all this time.

x x Yours with kind love as before, x x

JANE ANN.

After Football try Cricket. Our "Guide" on page ii. of Cover will help you.

Can you make a good speech?

An Indispensable Guide to Public Speaking—First Payment 1/6 only.

To one man the chance of making a speech affords the opportunity for an enhanced reputation; to another it is nothing but a danger. For the man who stutters and stammers, and finally sits down after a speech principally consisting of "ums" and "ers," scarcely enhances his reputation as a keen-witted member of the community or as a man whose intelligence and resource can be depended upon in a business crisis.

For that reason, the publication of "The Book of Public Speaking" is an event of the greatest importance. For it is the first comprehensive work upon this important subject ever published in this country. It provides at once a collection of the greatest speeches of the world's greatest orators, and at the same time a reliable guide to the Art of Public Speaking, written by men who are themselves famous as speakers of the highest merit.

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A. C. BENSON, M.A., C.V.O., F.R.H.S. (President of Magdalene College, Cambridge), on "The Art of Lecturing."

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Andrew Lang.
D. Lloyd George.
Winston Churchill.
Mark Twain.
Spencer Leigh Hughes.
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Sir Henry Irving.
Lord Fisher.
Abraham Lincoln.
Justin McCarthy.
Viscount Milner.
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An Article for All Engaged in Business.

You will probably find it quite easy to answer most of these questions, but unless you are a rare and brilliant exception you will find several others a good deal more difficult. Some of them, indeed, may be altogether beyond you.

And yet you will agree they are all questions that you might have to answer any day in your own business. So, if only out of curiosity—run through the list and see how many you can answer correctly.

13 Specimen Questions.

1. What is the exact purpose of a ledger?
2. What do these signs mean: "E. & O. E.," "F. A. S.," and "G. A."?
3. How would you open a branch?
4. What is a consignment note?
5. Do you know how to organise a sale?
6. Do you understand office organisation?
7. What is the difference between sending goods on "consignment" and "on sale or return"?
8. How often by law must a factory be "limewashed"?
9. How and when is a judgment summons issued?
10. What is the cost of registering a limited company?
11. Do you know how to take out a patent?
12. How would you draw a selling scheme?
13. How can you recover debts at court without the expense of a solicitor or collecting agency?

How Many Did You Answer?

Well, how have you come through this examination in business knowledge? You must not forget that the knowledge of these facts and of many other facts like them is absolutely necessary to you if you mean to succeed. If you are in business for yourself you know how useful you would find it to be able to answer any business problem that arose; if you are working for others you must realise that your employer will value you more highly if he knows he can go to you for information when he needs it.

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"TARIFF REFORM."

By W. H. Moore.

(We publish the following skit because of its cleverness and not, in any way, as a serious political contribution.)

Tariff Reform is a scheme put forward to force the British working classes to purchase British produce, regardless of price and quality, by a party of "Political Patriots" who dine at a restaurant where the chef is French, the manager Swiss, the waiters and "helps" German, and the orchestra—well, God only knows what nationality; here the "Patronise home products Patriots" will stuff upon Continental Hors D'Oeuvres, Russian Caviare, Strasbourg *Pâte de Foie Gras*, Egyptian Ortolans, Foreign Asparagus, French Champagne, German Hock, Italian Red or White Wine, and Monastery-made liqueurs.

Leaving the restaurant they enter their French-chauffeured, French-made car and are driven to the opera, where they are entertained by Caruso and Tetrazzini.

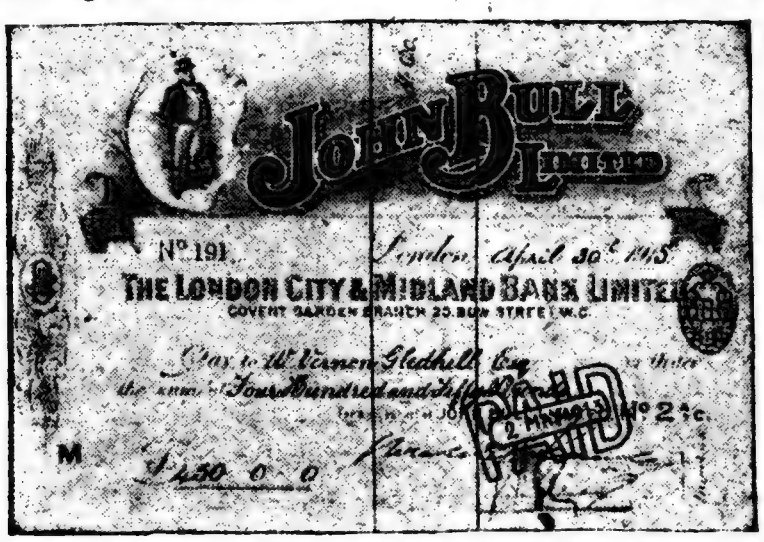
Arriving home later, they repair to their Louis XVI. "furnitured" bed-room or enjoy a quiet chat in their wife's boudoir (Louis XV. style) over a cup of French coffee served by their wife's French maid. During the chat a holiday at Monte Carlo or Cairo is proposed.

They then visit the cot of their German nursed son. Seeing him rather pale (too much chocolate Menier and French pastilles), the wife suggests his visiting a Berlin specialist, and then repairing to Biarritz. The husband lights a "guaranteed" Turkish-made cigarette whilst complaining to his wife of the absolute selfishness of the working classes, who will not "patronise home industries." She rings for her French maid, orders Eau de Cologne, and picking up the latest French novel retires to rest.

OUR 28TH "BULLETS" COMPETITION.

EIGHTEEN YEAR-OLD CLERK WINS £450.

Fame and fortune have come early to Mr. W. Vernon Gledhill, of 30, Clayton Road, Jesmond, Newcastle-on-Tyne. When he received our letter informing him that he had succeeded in winning our 28th "Bullets" Competition, and enclosing the cheque for £450, he was ten days less than eighteen years of age! He has probably, therefore, created a record—so far as we are aware, nobody so young ever having won such a large prize. The achievement is all the more noteworthy from the fact that the winning shot was one of the first four he has sent in. Although he tells us he is optimistic by nature, he naturally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scarcely expected his first attempts to do such execution. Mr. Gledhill is a shorthand-typist at the Central Labour Exchange in Newcastle. With the "Bullet" windfall Mr. Gledhill has opened a banking account, and, appropriately enough, has kindly sent us the first cheque he has drawn—one for five guineas, which he wishes distributed amongst the very much less fortunate people the particulars of whose careers we also publish—under the heading of "Human Documents." The original of the above cheque will be on view at the premises of Mr. J. A. Wilson, 223, Shields Road, Newcastle, until May 10th, and thence until the 14th at the premises of Mr. W. B. Harrison, 110, New Bridge Street, Newcastle.

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From a correspondent:—"A friend handed me the following prescription that he said he had cut from the paper: Go to the nearest chemist's shop and get 60 grains of Kephaldol in tablet form. For colds take two or three tablets, with a warm drink when going to bed, and two more the first thing in the morning. To relieve pain take two tablets at once, and then one every hour till relieved.

"It seems strange that such a simple prescription can do so much. I afterwards found out that the prescription originally came from a professor in one of the famous Vienna hospitals. Be that as it may, the next morning by cold was completely gone. I now always keep the prescription handy, and if any member of my family is suffering from colds or pain of any kind, whether Rheumatism, Neuralgia, Headache, etc., we immediately resort to the tablets, and are always assured of instant relief."

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Anæmia, Indigestion, and Nervous Breakdown—Too Terrified to Walk in the Street—Hospital Treatment Failed.—Owes her life to

DR. CASSELL'S TABLETS.

Mrs. Higgs, Peckham.

A case which must prove of vital interest to every sufferer from Nerve Trouble, Anæmia, or Digestive Weakness is that of Mrs. Florence Higgs, of 97, Gordon Road, Peckham, London, S.E. Seen recently by our special correspondent, Mrs. Higgs said:—"I owe my life to Dr. Cassell's Tablets. Four years ago I had an attack of influenza, which resulted in complete nervous breakdown. I was so weak and nervous that I could not bear to be left alone, and the mere thought of going out, even with my husband, filled me with terror. I cannot describe the sensation. I was so giddy that I felt I must fall through the shop windows, and my heart would keep jumping till I could feel each beat to my finger-tips. I could hardly force myself to eat, and fell away to a white, wasted shadow. Doctors and hospitals could do me no good, but in the end I got Dr. Cassell's Tablets and that was the beginning of new life for me. Now I am so well that friends can hardly realise I am the same woman."

Dr. Cassell's Tablets act more brilliantly than any other medicine known in cases of Nervous Breakdown, Anæmia, Debility, Sleeplessness, Nerve Pains, Heart Weakness, Kidney and Stomach Disorders, Children's Weakness, Spinal and Nerve Paralysis, and general bodily fatigue, brain fag, and all run-down conditions. Send 2d. to-day to Dr. Cassell's Co., Ltd. (Box A24), Chester Road, Manchester, for a free sample. All Chemists sell Dr. Cassell's Tablets at 10½d., 1s. 1½d., and 2s. 9d.

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The huge business we do and our position as London's Leading Furnishers enable us to offer the finest value obtainable in the whole furnishing world. Our spacious showrooms in Southampton Row contain an immense display of well-made furniture. Everything marked in plain figures at prices which represent an unequalled standard of value.

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A novel and charming design beautifully made in Satin Walnut, the Wardrobe being especially pretty. It has clear glass sides and front, backed with pleated curtains of casement cloth in charming shades, and the inside is entirely lined with the same material. The Dressing-table has a circular bevelled mirror. This is an exceptionally attractive suite, and an early inspection of it in our showrooms is recommended.

Wardrobe 3 ft. wide; Dressing-table, 2 ft. 9 in.; Washstand 2 ft. 6 in.; 2 Chairs.

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In order that country customers may make a personal selection, we pay their fares to town on all orders of £20 and upwards. Country orders packed and delivered free.

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Our Second-hand Department alone contains a stock valued at considerably over £10,000. A special Catalogue is issued weekly, which we shall be pleased to forward post free on application.

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A

John Bull's Letter Bag.

[The EDITOR replies to, and has a chat with, some of his numerous correspondents.]

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.—Will readers, when forwarding cuttings from newspapers, take care that in each case a sufficient portion is sent to identify the name of the paper and the date of issue?

CORRESPONDENTS, when writing regarding previous communications which they may have addressed to us, should always mention the nature of the matter therein referred to. Owing to the great increase in the number of ENQUIRIES *received consequent upon the abnormal growth in our circulation, it is no longer possible to answer them all in "Letter Bag," and* ONLY THOSE OF GENERAL INTEREST *will be noticed. The Editor will, of course, still be grateful for information, "biscuit" material, newspaper cuttings, etc.*

AUTHORS and ARTISTS *submitting MSS. and drawings for consideration must write name and address upon the back of their work. The Editor cannot accept any responsibility for the safe custody of MSS., etc., so forwarded, but will endeavour to return unaccepted work* WHEN STAMPED, ADDRESSED ENVELOPE IS ATTACHED TO THE MANUSCRIPT. ALL MATTER SUBMITTED MUST BE ORIGINAL UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED. *The most suitable lengths for articles and stories are about 750 words (one column), or 1,500 words (a page).*

The EDITOR *cannot express any opinion upon the value of postage stamps, old china, pictures, coins, books, etc.*

CORRESPONDENTS ARE REQUESTED NOT TO SEND ORIGINAL CERTIFICATES, TESTIMONIALS, ETC., *as, though every effort is made for their safe custody, they are liable to be mislaid. Copies only of such documents should be forwarded in the first instance.*

CORRESPONDENTS desiring INFORMATION *should place their questions in* CONCISE *form and refrain from sending* VOLUMINOUS DOCUMENTS, *at any rate until asked for them. The Editor is quite unable to devote the time necessary for perusing and considering the scores of folios which correspondents sometimes send.*

For Financial and Insurance Replies, see page 684.
For Sporting Replies, see page 688.

E. V. H. (Farnham).—We know nothing against the British Electric Institute.

"Tommy Atkins" (Windsor).—We said "are being," not "have been." You see the difference, don't you?

J. B. (Tadcaster).—You should report the matter to the local police.

"Patriot" and others suggest that we should print our recent article, "Are We Ready?" for general circulation. But everybody has read it by now!

B. S. (Queen's Park) says that, in the view of some of his friends, "after the Business Government has been elected, two or three brilliant men would arise, who would stand out far beyond their fellows and would naturally get followers—which would bring back the present Party System." We should like to see that proposition put in the form of a syllogism!

W. W. G. (Southport).—We quite agree that in adopting our statement that Mr. Lloyd George is "but a child in these matters"—*i.e.*, finance—Mr. John, M.P., was not paying his leader a very high compliment on his choice of Chancellor of the Exchequer.

M. L. V.—Which Borstal institution? There are many.

R. S. H. (Kelvedon).—The Enamotype Art Co., Fetter Lane, London, are playing you a game as old as Noah. Having obtained your photo for enlargement free, they will bring it to you again in an expensive frame, for which you will be asked to pay.

"Enquirer" (Ever Green Valley).—No, we cannot tell you "the market value of a general business taking £16 to £18 a week." You might take £1,000 a week, but if you paid out £1,100, the value of the business would then be unworthy of mention.

H. M. (Conisboro').—We do not know much about the Systematic Advertising Company, of Finsbury Circus Buildings, 18, Eldon Street, London, E.C., but if they are as systematic in obtaining money from other clients as they appear to have been in obtaining it from you, they must be very pushful and persevering people.

Beatrice Saunders (Coventry).—You, Beatrice, age twelve, tell us that "the schoolmaster during a lesson, last Thursday, asked who was the greatest Statesman of the present day, when one of the boys instantly replied, 'John Bull.'" We know the name of that boy without your mentioning it, dear. It is George Washington.

E. T. (Plumstead) is surprised at the announcement of the sale of some shops at Sydenham for so small a sum as £5. She entertains all sorts of dark suspicions regarding the *bona fides* of the transaction. We think, however, that the small price is probably accounted for by the fact that the leases will shortly expire, and that thereupon there will be heavy bills to meet for repairs. We have known cases in which owners of property would be only too glad to give it away to any responsible person.

W. N. (Fulking), who subscribes himself "yours sorrowfully," evidently considers that he is the only reader of the *Daily Mail*. He is one of hundreds who sent us a "Biscuit" from that journal, and as he has not received the half-crown, threatens to write to Sir Percy Scott to see if they cannot "get a joint action against us." Woe is us!

"Rita" (Bath) asks, "Why is Lloyd George like Holland?" and says, "Because he is low lying and damned all round." Well, "Rita" will be like him, to some extent, if he is not careful!

W. H. K. (Anniesland).—Never knew such a troublous world. Now you ask us to "inquire into the troubles of the R.N. Torpedo workers." We are inquiring into everybody and everything as fast as possible, and presently we shall come to you. Meanwhile, continue partaking of food.

M. T. (Epsom).—Who was the author of the touching poem, "Oh, bury Bartholomew out in the woods, In a beautiful hole in the ground"? Either Shakespeare, Dr. Watts, or Max Adeler.

W. S. (Bedford).—If you have obtained some ostrich feathers, a native Houssas plate, a fine monkey, and a skin rug from one of those Gold Coast niggers in return for a Bible and some handkerchiefs, you must be about as smart as your name. Try him now with one of your old hats and a spring onion, and he will probably send you in return half-a-ton of rubber or a tusk of ivory.

J. D. (Felixstowe).—"Six days had elapsed since the peace of Europe was broken and the powers of the Triple Alliance were at last brought face with the powers of the Triple Entente. By a desperate and——" Dear, dear, sir, you have got to the wrong shop. We belong to the historical school; you evidently want the romantic. Try the *Daily Mail*.

"An Old Reader" (Manchester).—Boots' are correct; the Insurance Commissioners will not pay for syringes, and you will have to find the 2s. 7½d. somehow.

"A Reader" (Enfield).—As you say, "Oh, for a Business Council for Enfield."

H. C. (Huddersfield).—We are always telling not only young hopefuls, but old desperandums "to make diligent inquiries before parting with their money." We have come to the painful conclusion that several thousands of pigeons are born into this country every year for no other purpose than that of being plucked.

E. V (Grimsby).—We agree that the Scunthorpe magistrates were lenient in letting off Dave Levey with a day's imprisonment for his local exploits in the photo-enlargement, frame-touting line.

W. A. (Holloway).—It is kind of you to send us your two screeds, one informing us "How to pull a church bell" and the other "How to blow a church organ." The one gets the rope, the other can be blowed.

"Prospect" (Blackburn).—We think you might try the "Complete Commercial Course" of the International Correspondence Schools.

C. F. W. (Newcastle-on-Tyne).—We note that you are a student and that the schools are most helpful and generous in every way.

F. W. M. (Newport).—H. R. (Pwllandras).—Of course, for "College" read "Schools."

H. E. G. (Hammersmith).—We note that your son is a student and that the schools are most fair and generous in every way.

I. C, S. (Clapham Junction).—As you are thoroughly satisfied with the course you are taking, by all means continue your payments.

J. E. H. (London, W.).—We don't think much the worse of the Church Army for advertising for a "Bookkeeper-salesman, aged 25 to 35, churchman, communicant, abstainer." Apart from the fact that many worldly commercial firms also have the conscience to believe that 22s. is about the price, don't forget that the salary of a saint goes a lot farther than that of a sinner.

T. L. D. (Waterhouses).—"Can a man who has the degree of a London B.A. (classical honours), and who also knows two modern languages, be sure of a good post as secretary, tutor, etc., or, at least, of earning his living?" A man, or a woman either, cannot be sure of anything in this world, good sir; but if a linguistic B.A. does not happen to have a tile off or a bee in his bonnet, he ought to be able to earn at least enough to keep body and soul together.

Don't miss "Mary Bull" THIS Week. 20 Fancywork Transfers given away. Coupon Gift.

L. R. C. (Maidstone).—Presently you will want to dictate to us how to eat pie. Don't be so crusty.

C. C. (Grantham).—Probably the paper *Bazaar, Exchange and Mart* will answer your purpose. One specially devoted to typewriters is unknown to us.

"UNK. PAT." (Glasgow Green).—Quite right not to risk the guinea. Much better give it to a competent local oculist. Sight is too precious a thing to fool with.

"BACK TO THE LAND" (Wighton).—Not us; we are too much occupied keeping our face to the foe. Besides, the 13s. a week some people back to the land in your parish are receiving as wages would not support our mortal frame.

MRS. EMILY G. P. (St. Albans).—So you transposed this verse the other day and wondered whether it would be of use for our weekly cinema, did you? "Welshey Doodle came to town, Riding on a pony, They put some shares inside his hat, And called him Lloyd Marconi." You are a very naughty girl, madame.

H. G. S. (Johannesburg).—"O, stern historic Muse, 'Tis meet thou write it down. But—millionaires could drown." Thus the beginning and end of your anniversary *Titanic* verse.

J. M. (Greenheys).—Thanks for thinking we are "the right man to show this dirty dastardly mean business up of a so-called gentleman and his click," but unfortunately we are the wrong man. If the "click" have stolen your patents the right man is a solicitor.

N. B. (Woking).—Dogs are allowed to bark and hens to crow, also geese and politicians to cackle, and though you "would like to know why your dog was picked out to be poisoned out of so many dogs in the neighbourhood" we cannot inform you. Get a less vociferous bow-wow next time if you wish to save its life.

"MANCHESTER VICTIM."—"When," you ask, "will people suffering from cancer take an example from the manner in which doctors thus afflicted choose to die? I have never heard of a doctor being operated on for this disease who did not die under chloroform." We knew a victim who hired a boat for a pleasure sail and rowed into the middle of a lake. When the boat was found upside down the coroner's jury said it was an accident.

"LOUISE F." (Barnes).—Not unless the editor of the *Court Circular* can and will give you a "complete list of the gentlemen presented to King George in the year 1911." That was the year we missed.

"MARMION" (Barrow-in-Furness).—We have not investigated the bona fides of the Turvey Treatment Association, so cannot speak as to the efficacy of the remedies they advertise.

"OBNOXIOUS" (near Chesterfield).—We can't help you because we can't understand your letter. Write again and explain clearly what the trouble is, giving necessary names and addresses.

C. R. (Worthing).—In common with others, you allege, you were given to understand that the Insurance Act was a heaven-sent blessing, and now you don't think. So do we don't.

MRS. S. (Slade).—For the millionth time, "Capt. Rand" is a preposterous humbug.

"ALICE A." (Llanbradach).—Your friend treated the man from the Great Central Supply Co. in the correct way. If everyone solicited imitated her example, such firms would have to change their methods of business or go under.

C. R. (Wyatts Road).—"I recognise your cleverness," you say. Some day we may be able to recognise yours.

MRS. A. M. (Halifax).—The story of your little daughter Margery who, on asking whether she would be able to take her best dolly to heaven with her, and being answered in the negative, replied: "Then I think I'll just take my old gollywog, mumsey, and go to——", is too theological—and also too musty—for our columns.

"GROCER" (Luton).—The Argentine Minister, Senor V. J. Dominquez, 2 Palace Gate, W., is able, if he is willing, to tell you more about Argentina than we are.

MRS. M. (Cricklewood).—What did you say when your maid asked you the other day what was "all this fuss about Lloyd George and the Macaroni"? S'pose you explained that some people had been making it too hot for him?

R. R. T. (Watford).—Your arithmetic is perfect. As the girl charged at the Musselborough Police Court, "secured £3 6s. and the magistrates were kind enough to mulct her in £3 3s. only, she was 3s. to the good." On the other hand, if she had spent the £3 6s., how much was she to the bad?

R. H. W. (Conway).—Comparisons between the Sloan-Duployan system of shorthand and Pitman's are, in our opinion, strongly in favour of Pitman's. Surely you can find a shorthand teacher in your own town? If you can, he will do you a lot more good than most correspondence teachers can.

J. R. M. S. (Wisbech).—If you don't know your own nose, nobody knows.

F. E. T. (W.C.).—But loitering for the purposes of betting is an offence, isn't it? And, after all, your friend did make a bit by the magistrate changing his mind.

E. J. (Birmingham).—According to you, and you have been in a position to know, the "administration of prison rules and regulations is carried out by the heads of the officials connected with the inside of these institutions in a quiet, confidential and altogether one-sided manner." On the other hand, we have by same post a letter from the editor of a prison officers' paper denying the charge.

"ENQUIRING MIND" (Pontypool Road).—There are, of course, always the risks of giving away your provisional patent to those to whom you show it in working order, and in your place we should take the advice of a solicitor as to exactly what procedure would protect you.

"RADIUS" (Co. Dublin) suggests that the best way to settle the Ulster question would be for each of the two antagonistic parties to select a pugilist and let the two bruisers fight it out. We are afraid it would not do. The Ulster champion would be sure to refuse to "break away."

"FAIR RATIONS" (London) takes us to task for occasionally referring to members of the sterner (?) sex as "males." He says, "Women do not like the word *Female* nor I *Male*." Now, for our own part, we glory in the term. It means so much. "Gentleman" is a poor substitute. Moreover, some gentlemen cannot properly be called males in the strict sense of the word.

A. C. L. (Hornsey Rise).—What on earth are you driving at? If you had stood on your head and written the letter with your feet it would have been easier, perhaps, to understand.

G. S. M. (Montreal).—The fault is yours. You ought to know the regulations of your own Post Office. In the British Postal Guide we find this: "By the regulations of the Postal Union articles liable to Customs Duty (in your case playing-cards) may be sent only by the Parcel Post. Dutiable articles sent otherwise may be returned, subjected to fine, or confiscated."

J. C. (Darwen).—"I wish," you write, "you could expose in your next issue the unusual frauds of the Co-op. in my case." Where is the evidence of said frauds? By-the-way, the postage stamp on the postcard you sent us looks as if it had the measles.

"FANCY" (York).—Why do you appeal to us to tell you why Burton beer is so good? We don't drink it, and for all we know there may be a bitter better or a better bitter.

C. F. W. (Hull).—There must be hundreds of patients who do not receive adequate or proper attention from panel doctors.

A. E. M (Retford).—Agreed that Excise officers do not receive ambassadorial salaries. We "might do worse than run a Civil Servants' column," you tell us. We might, if servants were all as civil as you.

MRS. M. P. L. (Kilburn).—Sorry for the moment we cannot find the address of the Dickens Fellowship. Write C. F. Dickens, Esq., K.C., The Temple, London.

"MARGARET C. B." (Elgin Avenue).—We have no record of the Mumford person. You are very strong in the arm. Thanks for your thanks.

"A REGULAR READER" (Woolston).—The widow Wright with five children marries again and becomes Mrs. Grant and the mother of another seven, and then adopts the name of Wright-Grant. She is certainly the right Grant, but the five other Wrights are the wrong Grant. We grant that the seven Grants are not Wright, but wrong. We can, however, quite understand the desire of the mother to call the whole lot Wright-Grant. It probably keeps her and other people from getting mixed.

D. T. T. (Cheltenham).—Evidently you have D.T.'s

A. C. (Saffron Walden)—Certainly. Any readers can come by appointment and see the "Bullets" judges at work.

E. J. E. (Chiswick).—You are surprised we have "joined in the piffle talked before the Select Committee on Motor Traffic." On the other hand, the Select Committee would probably be surprised if we joined in the piffle talked by you. Wherefore, taking one consideration with another, we prefer to surprise you.

M. P. V. (Thornton Heath).—Not having seen the *chef d'œuvre* of the Hon. John Collier, at Burlington House, we do not choose to enter into any guessing competition in regard to it. Our idea about writing is ours about painting; if the painter can't make you understand what he is driving at without worrying your immortal soul about his meaning, he would be just as well employed chopping wood. We cannot undertake to return letters.

T. R. G. (Teddington).—Don't be angry. If we sat up twenty-four hours a day we could not possibly keep pace with our letter bag. If you saw us now you would hear us groaning neck deep in the midst.

(A large number of replies are held over.)

Your LAST CHANCE to win Our £1,000 Cricket Prize. Final Coupon.

Bull's Eyes.

Notes of Interrogation :—

Has Ulster really got "arms" up its sleeves?
Isn't the European Concert a little out of tune?
Do they still call it the suffragette "movement"?
Hasn't Winston *ever* "speculated" in "futures"?
Is the "Garden of England" to become a coalfield?
Is the Plural Voting Bill conceived in a "Liberal" spirit?
Why there are so many indifferent pictures at the Academy?
Have we had a "bullet-in" from you this week? See page 686.
How long will Mrs. Pankhurst be "indisposed"—to prison life?
Why not a "One man, one job" Bill for public appointments?
Will the forthcoming "education" campaign appeal to all classes?
Doesn't the Kaiser fear that Germany may have too much of the "son"?
Apropos of Scutari, won't King Nicholas wish himself "out of it" before long?

* * *

Things That Need Explaining :—

Where the police vanish to in serious cases.
Why *The Times* has been reduced to Twopence.
How long the Territorial Farce will continue.
Why Sir Edward Grey is going to Berlin.
Why the *Titanic* Fund is being bottled up.
Where Mother Nature has mislaid the Spring.
The delay in declaring a further dividend in the Charing Cross Bank.
The reason why the Telephone Exchanges so often connect the wrong number.
Why Messrs. Waring and Gillow were mentioned in the recent London Hospital advertisements.
Why Dr. Macnamara—Secretary to the Admiralty—considered it necessary to kiss the "Blarney Stone."

* * *

Advice to the Superstitious :—

Don't look at the moon after a dozen glasses.
Encourage black cats—but lock up the fish.
A broken mirror casts no reflections upon you.
Owls are unlucky—so never permit them near the piano.
Green is dangerous—if the signalman has forgotten to alter it.
Never turn back: you might meet the landlord on the doorstep.
The colour of the horse is of no account—providing it comes in first.
Never hold a nail in position if a cross-eyed person has the hammer.
Three is a good sign for the pawnbroker, but bad luck for a young father.

* * *

Awful to Contemplate :—

A bald Paderewski.
A stutterer reciting.
A centipede with corns.
A stork with rheumatism.
A drunken snake-charmer.
A giraffe with a sore throat.
A pelican with a double chin.
An elephant with nasal catarrh.
A preacher seized with hiccoughs.
A tortoise out of house and home.
A lame man with St. Vitus's dance.
A moneylender in a land of barter.
A roundabout attendant with a bilious attack.
A gnat on your back when sitting for your photo.
The "working late" and "meet me" telegrams mixed.

* * *

Rapid Reviews :—

Unquenched Fire.—Hot stuff.
The Night Nurse.—Kept us awake.
The Mulberry Tree.—A fruitful attempt.
The Open Window.—Made haste to shut it.
The Wind Before the Dawn.—Gave us the shivers.
The Son of a Servant.—No benefit to be derived from it.

* * *

Put away the coloured knickers,
And the jersey striped with blue;
Place the leather-coated b'adder
In its cot till summer's through.
Let the goal-posts and the netting
Hibernate till autumn's nigh;
And the Referee and whistle
Go to—well, the bye and bye.

* * *

The ostrich that draws the little car at the Zoo is now almost devoid of feathers. Have the youngsters been pluming themselves on their rides?

"Picnics in a Cemetery," we read. Mark Tapleys in the flesh.

* * *

There are seven hundred thousand Sunday-school teachers. A good lot.

* * *

"Politeness is like an air-cushion," we read. Yes, frequently gets sat on.

* * *

"Be sure you are right," says a contemporary. Otherwise, you may be "left."

* * *

"The Glad Eye" has been followed by "The Chaperon," as might have been expected.

* * *

A pig was recently killed by a mastiff owned by a pork butcher. There's intelligence for you.

* * *

The Peterborough bullock fatally choked by a potato evidently died of tuber-colossus.

* * *

Four white seals have been seen in the Wash. That is where we should expect to find them.

* * *

The sentence, "King Alfonso has a slight attack of dry neck," was of course a misprint.

* * *

"M.P.s on the Stage" reads a headline. Well, most of them can "act a part" when required.

* * *

A Territorial costs the country about £12 per annum. Why not try a higher purchase system?

* * *

A contemporary alludes to Miss Lind-af-Hageby and Mrs Pankhurst as "propagandists." Wrong gender.

* * *

When Gainsborough painted "The Market Cart" he little thought that it would draw £20,060.

* * *

"At the present moment I am trying to do nothing," said a debtor recently. Was it hard work?

* * *

Some wheat has been produced which grows without rain. But *our* corn jumps at the sight of it.

* * *

The Cherbourg workman who has just enjoyed a nap of 77 days should get a job under Government.

* * *

A Toronto man has an owl which plays the piano. We never did believe in the bird's proverbial wisdom.

* * *

East Stow District Council accounts show an item of 2d. for red tape. It usually costs more than that.

* * *

The Government has no money for a National Theatre, but continues to support the Insurance Farce.

* * *

The Chicago women who want to make marriage harder will not have the support of certain unwedded sisters.

* * *

The policewomen to be employed in New York are to wear "plain clothes." They won't get many applicants.

* * *

They have a new animal at the Zoo with folding ears. But they have been known on the Bench for years.

* * *

"Have you any encumbrance?" a debtor was asked at Bow. "No, only a sweetheart," was the reply.

* * *

"Friendship is one of the cheapest of pleasures," says Mr. A. C. Benson. But friends are sometimes very "dear."

* * *

A group of Radicals want a general shuffle in the Cabinet. We think there is too much shuffling there already.

* * *

"Are women property or are they personalty?" asks Mr. F. D. Acland. If they are the former, few men realise it.

* * *

The L.C.C. decided recently to purchase a dictating machine for £52. The one at Westminster costs considerably more.

* * *

The German library censors paste the offending pages together. Good for the author; the reader promptly buys a copy.

* * *

"This book," says a critic, "is written with a swing." A novel method of the author to show life's ups and downs, we suppose.

* * *

The Redruth Guardians decline to provide boxing-gloves for the workhouse boys. The lads must grin and bare—their knuckles.

A New "Bullets" Feature. "Continuous Merit" Prizes. Cash Waiting.

YOUR LAST CHANCE! CLOSES MAY 12

Huge Cash Prizes!

£1,000	£250	£100	£50
FOR ALL FORECASTS CORRECT.	FOR NEAREST FORECASTS SHORT OF FULL NUMBER.	FOR NEXT HIGHEST CORRECT FORECASTS.	SPECIAL LADIES' PRIZE.

THIS is the last week of our first Cricket Competition. The final coupon appears on page 2 of our cover. Now is your opportunity—this is *your last chance* of winning the huge cash prizes offered. Fill in the coupon *at once*. Our "Competitor's Guide," given with the coupon, will help you. The closing date is Monday, May 12th.

WHAT YOU HAVE TO DO.

On page 2 of our cover you will find a coupon giving twenty matches which will be played on dates between May 12th and May 19th.

Cross out in ink the club you think will *lose*. If you predict a draw do not cross out either club.

Matches commenced and unfinished count as draws. If both sides score an equal number of runs the match will be regarded as being drawn.

Matches not commenced at all, not a single ball being bowled, will be ignored. Thus—

ABANDONED MATCHES MAKE NO DIFFERENCE.

£1,000 will be paid to the competitor sending us an Entrance Form giving a correct forecast of all the matches given. In the unlikely event of no entrance form being received containing all the correct forecasts, we shall award the huge sum of

£250 IN CASH

to the competitor sending most correct forecasts, even if the number be only 8 or 10, and *in addition* we shall award a second prize of **£100 in Cash** to the competitor sending in the next highest number of correct forecasts.

You can send in as many entries as you like. Any number of entries may be enclosed in the same envelope. Friends can send their entries together in one envelope, but EVERY coupon must be signed in ink by its respective sender.

The competition is one of skill and we recommend readers to study cricket form by reading the cricket columns of the daily papers.

As a guide to competitors we give with the coupon on page 2 of cover last year's results of the matches we have selected for this competition.

NO FEES. NO SCORES REQUIRED.

The COUPON will be found ON THE INSIDE of FRONT COVER.

READ These RULES CAREFULLY.

1. On the Entrance Form on page 2 of our cover cross out in ink, by running a pen through the names, the clubs you think will lose. If you predict a DRAW do not cross out either club.

2. Having done this, write in ink (typewriting or pencilling will not do) your name and address in the space provided, cut out the Entrance Form, and address it to "**JOHN BULL,**" **25, Floral Street, Covent Garden, London, W.C.,** mark envelope in top left hand corner, **Cricket Competition** No. 1. so as to reach us not later than first post Monday, May 12, but please send early to facilitate the work of examination.

3. The £1,000 cash prize will be awarded to the competitor whose Entry Form contains the correct results of all the matches, as published in the "Sporting Life."

4. In the event of no Entrance Form containing all correct results, £250 will be awarded to the sender of the Entrance Form containing the largest number of correct forecasts, short of the full number, and £100 to the sender of the next highest number of correct forecasts. In addition a distinct cash prize of £50 will be awarded to the lady sending most correct forecasts on a MAUVE COUPON taken from MARY BULL.

5. No responsibility will be accepted by the Editor for the loss or non-delivery of any effort, and no correspondence will be entered into, neither will interviews be granted. But the utmost care will be taken of all coupons received.

6. The Editor's published decision on all matters relating to this competition is final and legally binding, and competitors may enter only on this understanding.

7. Any effort on which any alteration of any description has been made will be disqualified. Entrance Forms must be cut, not torn out.

8. In the event of a tie or ties in this competition the £1,000 prize or the contingent prizes of £250 and £100 as well as the special £50 ladies' prize, will be equally divided.

THE CLOSING DATE IS MONDAY, MAY 12.

£50 For a "MAUVE" Coupon.

We cordially invite ladies to enter the above cricket competition, and they can do so by filling in the coupon on page 2 of our cover. But if a lady makes use of the **mauve coupon** to be found on the cover of **Mary Bull**, on Sale every Friday, she not only has the opportunity of winning the £1,000 or the contingent prizes of £250 and £100, *but also an additional and distinct cash prize of £50 for Ladies only.*

FINAL COUPON THIS WEEK. FILL IT IN NOW.

After you have filled up your entries for this competition, turn to page 686, where you will find particulars of "Bullets," a simple and attractive Competition which you should not fail to enter. A first prize of £500 in cash is offered this week in addition to more than 5,500 cash and other prizes to the value of over £1,895.

"TRUTH" AND "JOHN BULL."

A PROPOSAL FOR COMPANION DERBY SWEEPS.

In its issue for April 30th, *Truth* has the following, on the subject of turf sweepstakes:—

> Almost every day in the week I receive about a dozen letters from readers of *Truth* who want to know whether this, that, or the other turf sweepstake conducted by some individual on the Continent is genuine. Perhaps it will save much trouble to myself and my gambling friends if I state once and for all that I do not know what they mean by "genuine," that I know nothing of the way in which any Continental "sweep" is worked, and that I have no means of knowing. All I know is that I would not waste my money on any such gamble unless I knew enough of the parties running it to be sure that it was conducted honestly, and that I would not advise anyone else to do so. Another question that I am every day asked in this connection is what I think of the guarantee which some enterprising London editors give to particular "sweeps" of this kind which are under their patronage. *I prefer to keep my thoughts on this point to myself.* If anybody wants to know what such a guarantee is worth, he had better write to the guarantor and ascertain from him precisely what he knows about the working of the game.

As regards our brother's confession that he "knows nothing of the way in which any Continental 'sweep' is worked," we are bound to express amazement. We thought *Truth* knew everything. Surely Labby's successor does not consider his sphere of usefulness is limited to what goes on at home—especially when Englishmen's pockets are involved? Apparently, however, he is under some misapprehension as to the whole matter, for he naïvely confesses, by way of explanation of his innocence on the subject of sweeps—"I have no means of knowing." May we be pardoned for pointing out that a very simple way to "know" all about Continental turf "sweeps" is to do as we did last year—send a Special Commissioner out to investigate the whole subject on the spot, and then, as we did, follow the investigation up by a personal editorial visit, interviewing all the principal sweepstake firms, the police and postal authorities and everybody else in a position to give information? And, in the end, he might do worse than enter into friendly rivalry with the John Bull Derby Sweep—which looks like becoming a popular annual institution. A *Truth* sweep—with tickets, of course, at a £1—running in double harness with our half-crown protégé would have the effect of clearing out every wrong 'un on the Continent—and "keeping the money in the country." Despite the unkindness of the words we have *italicised* in our contemporary's paragraph, we will show our brotherly love by placing all our dossiers at its disposal and teaching it everything there is to "know about the working of the game." And we will tell our dear friend at once how *we* value a guarantee of the genuineness of a sweep. *We insist upon the whole of the Prize Money being lodged in a Bank* prior to the Draw; *we insist upon superintending the Draw*; *and we insist upon seeing the Prizes dispatched to he winners.* That is what we have done in connection with the John Bull Derby Sweep, now being run under the management of Mr. Patrick O'Brien, Geneva, Switzerland—and that is why everybody is rushing for tickets. So let us make this offer for next year—a *Truth* Derby Sweep, to be drawn under *our* direction, and a JOHN BULL Derby Sweep, to be drawn under the direction of the Editor of *Truth*. It would be rare fun!

DISTRAINT AND DISTRESS.

There appears to be a little misunderstanding in some quarters as to the exact nature of the proposals in our recent article. A legal correspondent assumes that we desire to deprive landlords altogether of their right of distraint. He has misread our article. We suggested no such thing, but merely urged that the landlord should only be permitted to exercise his right under strict legal safeguards, and with the express authority of a court of law. The courts have ever been jealous custodians of the rights of property and no reasonable landlord need fear the consequences of such an amendment of the law—which could be made by a very simple process. On the other hand, much needed relief would be afforded to tenants who are now at the mercy of property owners administering their estates with something like feudal severity.

AN OFFER TO READERS.

NEWSPAPER'S £5 NOTE.

An enterprising Journal recently offered a £5 note to the highest bidder, just to test the selling powers of the paper. Whilst the note was eventually disposed of for £4 10s., a number of applicants treated the offer as a huge joke.

A well-known firm of tailors, Messrs. H. Thomas & Co., of 142, Gray's Inn Road, London, W.C., offer to make a Gent's Complete well-made Stylish Suit to measure for only 15s. 6d. Whilst this offer, which is made only to "John Bull" readers, is no less startling than the paper's offer of a £5 note, it is perfectly honest, and made by a responsible firm.

The materials are good, which you can see before ordering as samples are sent free, and a guarantee is given that if not entirely satisfactory goods are given, money is returned in full.

Send a post-card or call to-day for patterns, measure chart, and fashion sheet. Mention "John Bull," for these 15s. 6d. measure garments are essentially "John Bull" offers. See offer underneath.

A COMPLETE, UP-TO-DATE,

GENT'S SUIT 15/6

ADVERTISING OFFER TO "JOHN BULL" READERS.

We realise that to make you a customer we must go one better than our competitors, and with this object we will make "John Bull" readers a stylish, well-tailored Complete Suit for the absurdly low sum of 15s. 6d.—to measure, too, remember. Other prices 19s. 6d., 23s. 6d., up to 40s.

Don't be sceptical. Realise that this is an advertising offer absolutely, and send us to-day merely a postcard for large range of patterns, measure chart, and fashion sheet. The materials will bear the closest scrutiny—then we fit you to your satisfaction or refund money. Why say more? Can we do more? Mention "John Bull" for when you see it there—IT IS SO.

H. THOMAS & Co., 142, Gray's Inn Rd., London, W.C.

HOW TO SELL

Practical and Profitable Training

Business Training.	Salesmanship.
Book-keeping.	Window Dressing.
Advertising.	Showcard Writing.

French, German, Italian, Spanish.

IT is only the well-trained man who can hope to succeed in modern industrial and professional life. The man who is untrained or poorly trained cannot compete successfully with one who has been carefully and thoroughly instructed, for he is setting the limited experience of one man against the wide experience and the accumulated knowledge of many. Experience, no matter how large and varied, is not everything. To attain success it is necessary to possess a sufficiency of theoretical knowledge as well. Twenty-one years of experience and experiment in correspondence training have enabled the International Correspondence Schools to place comprehensive knowledge at the disposal of their students in a form which is easy to understand and easy to remember. The *practical* and the *theoretical* are combined in I.C.S. Training! that is why it is also *profitable.*

Write NOW, using full address, to INTERNATIONAL CORRESPONDENCE SCHOOLS, Ltd., 17c, International Buildings, Kingsway, London, W.C.

Please use full address to avoid delay.

PRACTICE PROFIT MAKING

At Least 15%

"The Company acquires as a going concern Oil Properties now producing a net income exceeding 15 per cent. of the Company's nominal capital."

The above statement is contained in the particulars of the Melissa Hill Oil Company, Limited, which will be

Published in the Daily Press, WEDNESDAY, MAY 7

MELISSA HILL OIL COMPANY, LIMITED.

CAPITAL - £150,000

Divided into Shares of £1 each.

This Company has acquired as a going concern Oil Properties situated in the STATE of OKLAHOMA, U.S.A.

Has at present:

82 Producing Wells
88 Locations Marked
760 Acres
424.91 Barrels producing per day
All Properties fully equipped
Pipe Line Facilities

The Properties being directly connected with the Pipe Line Systems.

Further particulars can be obtained from

Messrs. JAMES SCHRADER & Co.,
Finsbury House, Blomfield Street, London. E.C.

CITY NOTES.

[*For Financial and Insurance Letter Box, see page* 684.]

The Stock Markets.

Although the news concerning the Balkan situation is more favourable, the Paris and Berlin Bourses have again been very nervous, the former selling Tintos and Kaffirs, and the latter throwing overboard Canadian Pacifics wholesale, so that the price fell again four to five points. It is certainly not safe to buy these Canadian Rails while politics are still threatening. As soon as peace is assured, however, an all-round improvement may be looked for. From Johannesburg comes the news that Messrs. Isaac Lewis and Bernard Oppenheimer have formed a Diamond Corporation to work several properties, the capital being £1,000,000. It is added that they will have the independent control. How about De Beers Company, then? The Chinese Loans have been adversely affected by rumours from Pekin of another revolution in China brewing. Rates of discount are stiffer, partly in view of numerous loans and new issues that are pending, and amongst which the Brazil Loan looms large, but, on the other hand, further consignments of gold from South Africa are likely to reach the Bank.

Consolidated Oilfields of South Africa.

News reaches us as we go to press that, after consultation with its technical adviser, Mr. J. E. Mills Davies—the eminent South African geologist and mining authority—the company have entered into a contract with Messrs. Fraser and Chalmers for the sinking of boreholes will be read with great interest by the shareholders and by investors generally. There are many other important features in the report just issued by the directors all of which point to the certainty of an active demand for the company's shares and to the prospect of the opening up at no distant date of what may yet turn out to prove South Africa's greatest industry.

The Passing of the "Edinburgh" and "Eagle" Bonuses.

Among the tests by which the solvency of a Life Assurance Office is determined, the solidity of the investments plays an important part. With few exceptions, the information furnished by the companies as to their investments is, in our opinion, quite insufficient. The passing of the bonus by the "Edinburgh Life," and the reasons assigned therefor, have once again directed attention to the effect which heavy depreciation in the investments necessarily exercises on the fortunes of a company. Happily, the "Edinburgh" is a fine old institution and will survive the shock which its announcement has caused. At the same time, the disclosure which the directors have deemed it prudent to make—and properly so, we consider—combined with the announcement of the "Eagle," another old-established office, that no bonus can be declared, is a disquieting circumstance and suggests that Life companies generally should sift their investments thoroughly and not allow shrinkage to pass over without writing off such sums year after year as may be necessary to thoroughly establish the solidity and soundness of their "Life Funds." Strong exception is taken by some policy-holders to the payment of dividends to shareholders of the "Edinburgh Life" and the "Eagle," whilst they have to be satisfied with the decision of the management that no bonuses are to de distributed to with-profit policy-holders for the past five years. We think that, from this standpoint, the policy-holders have reasonable cause for complaint, but it may well eventuate that the temporary cessation of bonus allocation will result in their ultimate advantage. There is only one suggestion, at the moment, we think it appropriate to make, and that is when the investments take the form of (1) mortgages on property within the United Kingdom, (2) mortgages on property out of the United Kingdom, and (3) house and landed property investment, these should be scheduled in the system adopted by building societies so that detailed particulars of all properties over which mortgages have been granted, and the position in which they stand, may be seen at a glance. The Life Assurance Act of 1909 does not call for information in this specific and definite form, but all the same it would be a desirable thing if the management conceded this point in order to satisfy proprietors and policy-holders alike that the property assets of their office, in which so many hundreds of thousands of pounds have been invested, are of a sound and unimpeachable character.

Barrister—Financiers.

When, for some reason or other, barristers cease from barristering they either turn to writing nonsense in the City columns of Sunday papers or to joining the boards of wild-cats. Mr. E. T. Holloway, who does not appear to be doing anything in that sphere of life to which he was "called," has for some years been director of a number of joint-stock concerns which, not to put too fine a point on it, should have been strangled at birth. But he is a strict censor of other people's ugly ducklings, and being one of the directors of a weird concern called the West African Rubber, Oil, Gold, and Stores Syndicate, Ltd., he recently set about charging some City men with mis-representation. Whilst under cross-examination, Mr. Holloway was taken through a list of his own wild-cats and he admitted that he had a fairly considerable and varied experience of companies, a good number of which he stated had been "wretched failures." He delivered himself of some good advice when he recommended barristers to keep out of the City, and in view of his defeat in the case under notice, some of them keep out of the Law Courts also.

Exit Eardley Howard.

A reader has forwarded to us some correspondence which he had, during its life-time, with the Small-holders' and Poultry-Keepers Co-operative Society, Ltd., from which we learn that its former secretary, Eardley Howard, has committed so many irregularities that it has become necessary to place it into liquidation. Mr. F. Lewis, Chairman and Managing Director of the late Society, lays all the blame for the *fiasco* on the shoulders of Howard, but we would ask Mr. Lewis what was *he* about to permit Mr. Howard to play ducks and drakes with the Society. We note that the name of the liquidator is C. Sharpe, who, apparently is Sharpe by name and sharp by nature, for he threatens our correspondent with *police court* proceedings for the recovery of calls on his shares!

Great Central Investment Trust.

In view of the repeated warnings against this concern which we have given to correspondents, it will not surprise them to learn that an order for compulsory liquidation has been made on the petition of its printers, but for whose assistance it would doubtless long ere this have ceased to exist.

Melissa Hill Oil Co.

We recently referred to an interesting forthcoming Oklahoma Oil issue and particulars are now available. It is the Melissa Hill Oil Comany, and 150,000 shares of £1 each are now being offered at par. The principal features of interest are that it acquires as a going concern oil properties actually producing a net income exceeding 15 per cent. on the company's nominal capital, comprising a total of 82 wells, with a similar number of suitable locations for further boring, and that all the properties are fully equipped with the necessary plant and machinery including 90,000 feet of pipe-line connections. We have little doubt that this issue will be readily taken up by the investing public.

MAPPIN & WEBB.

Mr. Herbert J. Mappin presiding at the meeting last week of Mappin and Webb (1908), Limited, said that the profits made during the past year had attained a fresh record. The amount of profits retained in the business in the shape of reserve fund and carried forward—after taking into account appropriations proposed in the report—had reached, in the period of four years since the company was registered, the substantial figure of £54,491. The whole of their branches at home and abroad continued to show satisfactory progress, and it was their hope, given settled conditions at home and abroad, that they had by no means reached the height of their success. Their factories were continually being improved and added to, and their capacity during 1912 had been still further increased. Their operations were now world-wide, and it had just been arranged to take an interest in an old-established business in Canada, which might lead to still further developments in North America, where, they believed, a big field awaited them.

JOHN BULL, LIMITED.

Notice is hereby given that the transfer books of the Company will be closed from the 7th to the 28th May 1913 (inclusive), for the preparation of Dividend Warrants.

By Order of the Board.
COLES L. HARRIS,
Secretary.

For Result of Our Final Football Contest, see page 657.

South Africa's New Industry.

:: Oil Within the Empire. ::

RESULT OF EMINENT EXPERT'S VISIT.

A £1 Share That May be Worth £200.

THE CONSOLIDATED OIL FIELDS OF SOUTH AFRICA, LTD.,

Mr. J. E. MILLS-DAVIES, one of South Africa's leading geologists and mining engineers, has recently returned from an inspection of the properties in the Ceres district, Cape Province, controlled by the Consolidated Oil Fields of South Africa, Ltd., and has reported most favourably regarding the Oil prospects.

* * * * * *

The satisfactory geological character of the ground is fully described, and the following definite and important statements are made, viz:—

"The most important indication of the existence of petroleum upon your "properties is the gas which has been observed at Bailie's Gat, and concerning "which the evidence seems unquestionable. This gas has been found along the "lower edge of a wide band of shale, which outcrops several undred feet. "It occurs just where one would expect to find gas or oil seepages if the formation "held petroleum, for the shale band may be regarded as a cover which would pre-"vent the escape of gas or oil below. It is beneath this shale that a search should "be made for petroleum.' And in a letter since received, Mr MILLS-DAVIES says, "There is ample justification for investigating the problem in a systematic way."

* * * * * *

In consequence of the wholly satisfactory nature of the report, immediate steps are being taken for a borehole to be sunk under Mr. Mills Davies' personal supervision.

Although, at present, the activities of the Company will be chiefly concentrated on the Ceres field, its operations will by no means be confined to that district. Negotiations are, in fact, in hand for the acquisition of certain undoubtedly rich Oil Shale properties in the Transvaal, and of reputedly petroliferous lands elsewhere, which latter are being visited and reported upon, for the Company, by an Expert of European fame.

* * * * * *

With regard to the Oil Shale properties, a very high authority, in London, who has analysed a sample of the Shale for the Company, says:—

"Destructive distillation yielded a quantity of crude oil of a light brown colour. "The amount worked out to 62¾ gallons per ton of Shale, and from the appearance "of the oil, I judge it to be rich in paraffin wax. The sample is the most "promising of any I have recently examined."

* * * * * *

The capital of the Company is £250,000, including £50,000 working capital.

* * * * * *

The Company is a parent undertaking, its policy being to dispose of Oil rights, over given areas, to subsidiary Companies, retaining a substantial interest in them.

* * * * * *

The potentialities of the Company are enormous. According to a leading American authority its £1 shares may easily attain the value of £200 from its Oil rights alone.

* * * * * *

Investors and others interested will be supplied with full particulars on application.

THE SOUTH AFRICAN PETROLEUM EXPLORATION SYNDICATE, LTD.
80, Coleman Street, London, E.C.

JOHN BULL'S FINANCIAL AND INSURANCE LETTER-BOX.

Letters containing enquiries must be addressed to the City Editor, JOHN BULL, 52, New Broad Street, E.C. The names and addresses of correspondents must be enclosed, not, of course, for publication, but in token of good faith. Anonymous communications will be disregarded.

A Postal Order for 1s. must accompany each Financial or Insurance Enquiry.

CONSOLIDATED OIL FIELDS OF SOUTH AFRICA.—ANXIOUS.—Your shares will be delivered to you fully paid, and there is no further liability upon them.——G. E. H. (Bournemouth).—We have only to repeat that, as a speculative investment, we regard these shares as the pick of the market.

INVESTMENT.—S. H. H. (Liversedge).—For a speculative investment we know nothing better than Consolidated Oil Fields of South Africa, or, for a dividend paying security with prospects of considerable capital appreciation, "John Bull" 6 per cent. Convertible Preference shares.

FERGHANA OILFIELDS, LTD.—T. G. E. (Hull).—This is a very promising Company which already has several producing wells.

DALRYMPLE AND CO. (Chancery Lane).—R. K. (Brighton).—We dealt fully with these people in "City Notes" of our issue of March 22nd.

KAFFIRS.—ENQUIRER.—Anglo-French Exploration shares have lately been an improving market, being quoted at nearly 15/16, on the resumption of dividends with 5 per cent. for the past year; hold. There is, however, no quotation for Anglo-French (Transvaal) Coal Estates, which belongs to the same group, but which is not paying dividends on its Ordinary shares, there having been, at the end of last year, still a contingent liability in respect of the Cumulative Preference dividend of over £31,000. There is, therefore, no option but to hold these shares.

BRITISH MOTOR TRACTION.—D. J. S. (Harrow Road).—This Company was dissolved about nine or ten years ago by being struck off the Register at Somerset House under the provisions of the Companies' Acts. The shares have not any value.

OBSCURE AMERICAN CONCERNS.—ECLIPSE (Liverpool).—The American Exploration Company and the Eclipse Gold Mining Company are obscure American concerns, which are not known on this side. We are afraid that there is little or no prospect of your ever getting any return for your money.

GALICIAN STANDARD OIL MINING CO.—GALICIAN, OPPORTUNIST, T.B. (Doncaster), AND OTHERS.—From the information we have obtained we regard the shares as a promising speculative investment, more especially in view of the fact that one of the wells in which the Company is interested is steadily producing, and the district in which the concern is operating is a fashionable one.—— R. H. (Rhondda), S. B. W. (Consett), and Others.—If you will substitute the word "speculation" for "investment," the answer is in the affirmative.——E. G. T. (Woolwich).—See reply to "Galician." We believe the Manchester firm you mention are quite respectable.——J. W. (Stornoway).—If you repeat your question about the scrip distribution to Messrs. Hatton Morris and Co., they will doubtless be able to give you the information for which you ask.

PREMIUM BONDS.—S. R. (Liverpool).—We have not had an opportunity of making ourselves acquainted with the methods of business of the firm you mention, and we think you would be wiser to transact your dealings through Messrs. Cunliffe, Russell and Co., of 10, Rue du 4 Septembre, La Bourse, Paris, for whose bonâ fides we can vouch.——DONE.—We are afraid that you have lost your money. Messrs. Cunliffe, Russell and Co. have nothing whatever to do with the "bank" you mention, the latter having apparently annexed Messrs. Cunliffe, Russell's printed matter. We can only suggest that, in future, you should confine your business to a reputable firm.

TURKISH LOTTERY BONDS —SALOP.—This is a question which cannot readily be answered at the present juncture, but you should place yourself in communication with a respectable firm who make a speciality of dealings in such Bonds, such as Messrs. Cunliffe, Russell and Co., 10 rue du 4 Septembre, La Bourse, Paris.

SOUTHERN ALBERTAS, MOUNT ELLIOTTS, ETC.—(W. H. C. (Newcastle).—(1) We believe the Universal Stock Exchange complies with its bargains. (2) With regard to Southern Albertas, we have for some time past been averse to this concern, and we see no reason to change our views. (3) The same remark applies, more or less, to the Mount Elliott. You can find far better opportunities for investment in, say, Home Rails, Kaffirs and Rhodesians.

OIL AND GENERAL SHARE EXCHANGE.—AJAX.—We understand that this business has recently changed hands, but that arrangements were made at the time for the completion of all outstanding bargains.

R. A. SMITH AND CO.—G. A. T. (Eastbourne).—We should not advise dealings. Canadian Pacifics are a good speculative purchase on reactions, but, as stated above, we should not recommend you to purchase them through these people.

UNIVERSAL STOCK EXCHANGE.—DUBIOUS.—See reply to W. H. C. above. We have no recent information as to its business. Yes, Mr. Macusick is still at its head.

BLIND POOLS.—ANXIOUS (Glasgow).—The best advice we can give you is to have nothing further to do with these people, or their "blind pools," and you should be thankful that your experience has not cost you more than 10s. We have frequently called attention to the firm.——H. B. (Gainsborough).—These people seem to have spread their net widely, and your experience is exactly the same as that of "Anxious' (Glasgow).

NINE INVESTMENTS.—So-So.—Your holding of nine bonds is a good one. The New Zealand 4 per cent. Stock is the best, and the others must be considered as second-class, but all are good of their kind, and give you a satisfactory yield.

CALIFORNIAN MINE.—DUDSLEY.—The occurrence should be a lesson to you not to buy such shares, merely on the strength of a circular. We are, however, able to state that during the year ended November 30th, 1912, the Company reduced its indebtedness by 79,350dols., to 75,042dols., and that there has been some improvement in the general position of the concern, which has, however, still a good deal of leeway to make up. The treatment plant is giving some trouble, and various alterations are necessary. The annual meeting of the Company was held in Phoenix, Arizona, on February 7th last. We do not expect the shares to revive again on the London Stock Exchange until the position at the mine shows more tangible improvement, and there is, therefore, no option on your part but to hold for the present.

PROPERTY INSURANCE CO.—T. G. R. (Leigh).—We have made enquiries, and are informed that the individual you mention has no connection with this Company and is not authorised to collect any premiums or do business for it.

EDINBURGH LIFE ASSURANCE CO.—T. W. H. (Gosforth).—We deal with the passing of the bonus by the Edinburgh Life in our City Notes. The Directors are within their strict legal rights in not allocating a bonus, and, in the circumstances, we do not think any useful purpose will be served by supporting an agitation against the present policy of the Board.——H. E. (Lockerbie), G. H. S. (London).—See our "City Notes." Whilst fully sympathising with policy holders in the loss of bonus for the past Quinquennium, we feel that reprisals of a hostile character would not help the position in any way, and must, in fact, prove harmful. We should like to be assured, however, having regard to the large sums invested on mortgage that the reserves now being made for depreciation are ample, and we think the Directors would be well advised to publish a schedule in the form we have indicated, so as to set all fears at rest as regards the future. Subject to the necessary assurance on this point being forthcoming, we should counsel the policy holders to stand by the Company and to avoid agitation, which can only tend to hamper an already difficult situation. There is, of course, no question as to the financial strength of the Company.

NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE.—MRS. H. (Chiswick).—You inform us that you have not received any Sick Benefit payment, although your husband has been in a sanatorium for eight weeks, and previously was in the infirmary for two weeks, and he was a Post Office contributor until he transferred to the National Amalgamated early in January. You had better see the agent of the latter Society and ask him to specially look into your case and have the claim promptly attended to.——I. H. (Workington).—An apprentice, unless he receives no money payment, must insure. The smallness of the remuneration makes no difference. The contributions to be paid in respect of persons under age is always the same—viz., 7d. in the case of a youth. If, however, the employer pays full wages during sickness, etc., the contribution in that event becomes 5d. As regards Unemployment Insurance, the contribution payable from every workman employed in an insured trade for every week he is employed is 2½d.

NATIONAL COMMERCIAL INSURANCE CO. (IN LIQUIDATION).—SAPPO.—We fear you have no remedy. If the assets on realisation are insufficient to meet the claims of creditors, the liquidator has no option but to call up the unpaid capital. You had better, therefore, make the best arrangement you can with the Liquidator.

REFUGE ASSURANCE CO.—JOHN DORY.—It seems to be the practice of Industrial Offices to give as little as possible in return for the premiums paid, and it is owing to what we conceive to be inequitable treatment of the thrifty poor of the community that we are unable to recommend them. Whether or not they are justified in throwing so large a proportion of their management expenditure on the Industrial Branch is a point we hope to be able to deal with shortly, and in connection with it important issues may be raised affecting the legality of the dividend payments to shareholders and bonus distributions to ordinary branch policy-holders. We do not advise an application for the £500 Endowment policy.

BERMONDSEY SETTLEMENT APPROVED SOCIETY.—M. J. (London).—Unless the rules specifically provide that you have to enclose a stamped addressed envelope for the return of the cards, it is the duty of the Society to send you them back. You are entitled to courteous treatment when claiming any legal benefit which may accrue under the National Health Insurance Act

BALHAM AND TOOTING LOAN SOCIETY.—J. J. G. (Tooting).—You have been a member of this Society for seven years, and, having given notice to terminate your membership, you are informed that you can only withdraw the amount standing to your credit in accordance with the rules, which, we observe, provide that if cash in hand is insufficient to meet demands for loans or withdrawals, "such applications shall be entered in rotation in a book kept for the purpose and shall be paid according to priority." You are bound by this rule, but the Society should give you some idea as to when you may expect the money to be paid out. We are not favourably impressed with the Society

ECLIPSE SOCIETY.—CONSTANT READER.—We note that the "Eclipse Assurance Corporation" is in liquidation, but that the "Eclipse Assurance Collecting Society" is far from that position, according to the Secretary's statement. Please obtain and send us the Report and Balance Sheet of the last-named Society, and repeat your enquiry.

INSURANCE QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS—NOTICE TO OUR READERS.

Owing to the enormous number of enquiries we receive on Insurance matters, our readers will appreciate the difficulty which confronts us in giving prompt replies. Indeed, the congestion has become so great that we have decided to depart from the rule we have hitherto observed of replying only through this column, and to answer by post. Correspondents, therefore, who fail to find replies to their enquiries on this page may expect to hear from us by letter with as little delay as possible.

Your LAST CHANCE to win Our £1,000 Cricket Prize. Final Coupon.

MONEY MADE DAILY

by dealings in

STOCKS and SHARES.

Profits can be quickly made by dealing on the

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TAKE ADVANTAGE

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undertake all transactions in Stocks and Shares on the above system, also options. Fortnightly and three monthly accounts, and all Investment business. They will forward gratis and post free to all genuine enquirers, a copy of the "Weekly Review," together with full particulars of their terms of business.

Sums of from £5 to £5,000 can be profitably employed.

Like the Iceberg — cool.

Captain Scott CIGARETTES

are guaranteed **HAND MADE**, and of the finest Virginian Tobacco obtainable. They are **ABSOLUTELY PURE**, they smoke cool always, and will please the palate of the most particular smoker. Only the purest paper is used for wrapping. Try them to-day. The value is in the Cigarettes—not in the Box.

20 for 9d.
10 for 4½d.

Of Tobacconists and Stores everywhere.

Each of the following have already won £500 from us:—

C. J. GOULTER, 1, St. George's Road, Kingston Hill.
W. HARGRAVE, Royal Marine Infirmary, Deal.
J. J. RICHARDS, 9, Shannon Grove, Brixton, S.W.
A. B. WYATT, 3, Falmer Road, Enfield, Middlesex.
W. H. BLACKSHAW, The Lea, Denham, Bucks.
H. COLCHIN Junr., Woolpack Inn, Iwade, Kent.
F. SMITH, 241, High Street, Perth, Glam.
T. PHILLIPS, 34, The Park, Treharris.
W. H. COWDERY, Foresters Arms, Coxgreen, Maidenhead.
B. AINLEY, 10, Hamilton Street, Old Trafford, Manchester.

EACH OF THE FOLLOWING HAVE ALREADY WON £100 FROM US:—

J. J. STEPHENSON, 42, Durham Road, Stockton-on-Tees.
J. PARRISH, 165, North Road, Clayton, Manchester.
J. DIXON, 149, Albert Street, Millom, Cumberland.
C. E. PAGE, 1, Royal Villas, Maxton, Dover.
H. HACK, 30, Little Earl Street, Shaftesbury Avenue, London.
A. THOMPSON, 29, Cockspur Street, Pall Mall, London.
MRS. OLIVER, 22, Nicolson Street, Edinburgh.
BOMBARDIER COAKLEY, R.G.A., The Castle, Dover.
A. KERR, Sheephead Inn, Duddingston, Scotland.
M. BROWN, 68, Corporation Road, Workington.

EACH OF THE FOLLOWING HAVE ALREADY WON £50 FROM US:—

L. NEALE, 4, Brainerd Street, Green Lane, Liverpool.
A. ELLIOTT, 139, Portman Buildings, Lisson Grove, London, N.W.
H. POWELL, 1, Reubens Place, New Denham, Uxbridge.
G. GREEN, 10, Church Street, Madeley, Salop.
B. HANCOCK, Westcombe House, Bideford, Devon.
G. SPENCER, Criterion Bar, St. Andrews, N.B.
W. TREMLETT, Whiteley's Depot, Hillingdon Heath, Uxbridge.
J. CHARNOCK, 10, Norman Road, Seacombe, Liverpool.
G. BOWNAS, Temperance Hotel, Grassington, Yorks.

The Editor of "John Bull" on February 1st stated:—
"We have many times expressed satisfaction with Mr. H. Diamond's methods, and can assure our readers that from beginning to end each sweep promoted by him is absolutely straight, square and aboveboard."

Mr. W. Lotinga, editor of "Lotinga's Weekly," and well known for many years, until recently, as Magpie of "The Globe," and as "Larry Lynx" said Oct. 12:—
"I can assure everyone most emphatically as to the genuineness and straightforwardness of H. Diamond's sweeps."

H. DIAMOND, Lucerne, Switzerland.

Letter Postage, 2½d. Postcards, 1d.

5,543 "BULLETS" PRIZES WEEKLY!

SPECIAL "CONTINUOUS MERIT" PRIZES.

As a special reward for continuous merit we make this week a unique offer. To all competitors who have won EIGHT or more "Bullet" Prizes, since and including "Bullets" Competition No. 18, we will pay the sum of TWO GUINEAS. All you have to do is to claim the prize, but the eight prizes must all have been awarded to one and the same person. After verification the cash will be at once forwarded. All prizes won, cash and otherwise, are eligible for this special offer. This is a distinct and additional prize offer, which in no way affects competitors' chances of receiving the £500 or any other of our weekly prizes.

FIRST PRIZE **£500** **FIRST PRIZE**

£75 SECOND PRIZE. **£25 THIRD PRIZE.**

10 Prizes of £2 10s.
10 " " £1
20 " " 10/-

TOTAL PRIZES VALUE £1,895

500 Prizes of 5/-

5,000 OTHER PRIZES VALUE OVER £1,100.

Bullets can only be constructed from any of these 40 Examples:—

MARRIED OR SINGLE	LADIES IN WAITING	WITH CARE	CUP THAT CHEERS	VISITING UNCLE
WAR CLOUDS	MEDICAL STUDENTS	ALWAYS ON TOP	POLICE TRAPS	MAY FLY
MONEY TALKS	SELECT COMMITTEE	FORTY WINKS	SUNDAY NEWSPAPERS	DOUBLE HARNESS
MY WIFE WON'T	MAIDEN OVER	SMOKING COMPARTMENT	A DARK HORSE	SUFFRAGETTE FUNDS
MUG'S GAME	NAMING THE DAY	BLACK AND WHITE	FACING POWDER	LANDED GENTRY
FIRED WITH ENTHUSIASM	ANXIOUS TIME	BIG HIT	MUDDLING THROUGH	WOMAN'S LABOUR
HARD LINES	INFANTS IN ARMS	SECOND SIGHT	STUDY IN SCARLET	DOWN TOOLS
SITTING TIGHT	PALM OIL	ON HIS KNEES	PRESSING NEED	QUACK DOCTORS

Owing to the Whitsuntide Holidays the closing is extended to Thursday, May 15.

IMPORTANT.

Every "Bullets" coupon received is slowly and carefully judged by TWO different Members of our Special Staff of Adjudicators, all of whom are journalists of the highest ability, specially qualified to undertake such work. Thus, every coupon is judged twice, and the possibility of a "Bullet" displaying merit being overlooked is eliminated.

HOW TO MAKE BULLETS.

First choose any of our forty examples. Then give two words or three words having some bearing on the example chosen. The FIRST and LAST word selected MUST begin with ANY OF THE LETTERS in the example chosen. If three words are selected any word can be used as the middle word.

For instance, if you take the example, "A DARK HORSE, and take the letters "R" and "S" using the word "wins" as the middle word, you can make the "Bullet," "SOMETIMES WINS RACE." Or from the example, "VISITING UNCLE," the "Bullet," "UNFORTUNATE NECESSITY," can be formed. Again, if you take the example, "FORTY WINKS," using the letter "F" as initial for both the first and last word, you can form the "Bullet," "FATHER ENJOYS FREQUENTLY."

Competitors who have already won any prizes, large or small, in this competition are in no way debarred from winning again.

Competitors can send in two BULLETS on one coupon for sixpence, but if both coupons are used a postal order for one shilling must be sent.

The ink will not run if the coupon is slightly warmed before being used.

Closing date, Thursday, May 15th.

Example _____

Bullet _____

Example _____

Bullet _____

(32) P.O. No. _____

I agree to enter this competition in accordance with the rules and conditions announced on page 687, and agree to accept the published decision as final and legally binding.

Signed _____

Address _____

A Sixpenny P.O. Must Accompany this Coupon.

Not more than three words may be used to construct a Bullet.

This week's Bullets Coupons will also be found in "MARY BULL," dated May 17th.

Closing date, Thursday, May 15th.

Example _____

Bullet _____

Example _____

Bullet _____

(32) P.O. No. _____

I agree to enter this competition in accordance with the rules and conditions announced on page 687, and agree to accept the published decision as final and legally binding

Signe _____

Address _____

A Sixpenny P.O. Must Accompany this Coupon.

If Both Coupons Are Used a Postal Order for 1/- Must Be Sent.

ENVELOPES SHOULD BE MARKED "BULLETS NO. 32," "JOHN BULL," LONG ACRE, LONDON, W.C.

Write "COMPETITION" on top left hand corner of Envelope.

RESULT OF 29TH BULLETS COMPETITION.

FIRST PRIZE OF £500:—

Mr. WM. ROW,
Examiner Buildings,
Strutt Street, Manchester.

Example.—CIRCUMSTANCES ALTER CASES.
Bullet.—ALSO ACQUAINTANCES.

SECOND PRIZE OF £75:—

MR. C. E. AYERS,
8, Victoria Rd., Gt. Yarmouth.

Example.—SPEEDING UP.
Bullet.—SENIOR PARTNER'S SON.

THIRD PRIZE OF £25

Mrs. M. OLIVER,
38, Windsor Terrace, Sth. Shields.

Example.—CHANCELLOR OF EXCHEQUER.
Bullet.—EVEN TAXES "ROYALTIES."

TEN Prizes of £2 10s. awarded as follows:—

£2 10s. each to:—

Mr. JOHN W. SHRIGLEY, 3, Fox Hill Gardens, Up. Norwood, S.E.
CIRCUMSTANCES ALTER CASES—AIRSHIPS DESTROY INSULARITY.

Mr. ANDREW M. JOHNSTON, 322, Lawn Market, Edinburgh.
GETTING RICH—HASH BECOMES ENTREE.

Mr. FRANK S. COLLIER, 24, Maryland Park, Stratford, E.:
NUMBER ONE—MY HORSE NEVER.

Mrs. R. J. HAIGH, 65, Gladstone Street, Bedford.
THE UNIVERSE—SLUMLAND THINKS EPPING.

Mr. PHILIP COURTENAY, 19, Myrtle Grove, Bideford, N. Devon.
BIG DROP—PHYSIC'S WATER PERCENTAGE.

Mr. CHAS. W. PALMER, 16, High Street, Godalming:
DOWN HILL—LUNCHEON BECOMES DINNER.

Mr. FRANK H. GREEN, 54, Osmond Gardens, Wallington, Surrey.
UNMARRIED MAN—REMISS RE MISS.

Mr. H. A. DAVEY, 82, Beulah Road, Walthamstow, Essex:
GRAND OPERA—NEEDS "TARIFF REFORM."

Mrs. M. A. HALL, 146, Doncaster Road, Mexborough, near Sheffield:
SO SWEET—WIDOW'S "NUMBER ONE."

£2 10s. divided between the following:—

Mr. R. FARMER, 10, Maynard Road, Leicester:
SMALL HOLDINGS—LADIES' HANDKERCHIEFS.

Mr. A. HASTINGS, 66, Middleton Road, Banbury, Oxon.:
SMALL HOLDINGS—LADIES' HANDKERCHIEFS.

10 PRIZE WINNERS of £1 EACH.

BROWNLOW, A. E., 34, Thorpe Road, Melton Mowbray.
CORK, C., 301, St. Peter's Lane, Leicester.
DREYER, C. W., 17, Victoria Avenue, Hull.
GILBERT, C. J., Sergts. Mess, 3rd Hussars, Shorncliffe.
HARPUR, W. J., 8a, Newton Road, Cricklewood.
JAMES, J., 55, Harris Street, Leyton.
KELLY, C. F., 17, Bradford Road, Seven Kings.
PERRIN, Miss K., Newsagent's, Soho Road, Handsworth, Birmingham.
SIDDALL, Mrs. O., 39, Caithness Drive, Liscard.
WARD, J., 14, Frederick Avenue, Shawside, Shaw.

20 PRIZE WINNERS of 10s. EACH.

ASHBY, R., Clarence House, West Street, Hereford.
BALL, DAISY, Miss, 76, Alfred Road, Hastings.
BASFORD, G. W., 8, Lansdowne Avenue, Leigh-on-Sea.
BENNETT, K. M., Mrs., Coniston, Highmoor Road, Caversham, Reading.
BRAND, Mrs. EMELINE, Athelstan Road, Faversham, Kent.
CARR, E. T., 44, Shakespeare Avenue, Rock Ferry, Cheshire.
CLARK, W. J., 29, Longfield Road, Bishopston, Bristol.
GIBBONS, E. E., 19, Ranlagh Road, Westbourne Square, W.
JONES, W. J., 8, Queen's Road, Merthyr Tydvil.
KING, NORMAN, Cassell Road, Fishponds, Bristol.
LANGWORTHY, A. W., 4, Bath Road, Southsea, Hants.
MAHON, L., Moss Bank, St. Helens, Lancs.
PIRIE, FINDLAY WM., 259, Union Grove, Aberdeen.
RICHARDS, W. H., 35, Lilymead Avenue, Knowle, Bristol.
STANLEY, R., 52, Norbiton Avenue, Norbiton.
SUMNER, E., 118, Lightbown Road, Moston, Manchester.
WALL, G., 12, Clare don Square, Euston, N.W.
WARNER, G. H., 2, Parks Lot, Richmond, Surrey.
WELSH, A. JESSIE, Hamilton Lodge, Easter Duddingston, Edinburgh.
WILSON, W. H., 45, Camden Park Road, London, N.W.

SELECTION FROM LIST OF 500 PRIZE WINNERS OF 5s. EACH. "BULLETS" COMPETITION NO. 29.

A Selection from the List of 5,000 winners of valuable Prizes can be seen in "Mary Bull," dated May 24th.

bott, Mrs. A., 55, Albert Mansions, outh Lambeth-rd., S.W.
ams, F., 92, Furness-rd., Harlesden.
ams, E., 50, Alexandra-rd., Worthing.
ams, C., 59, Hawthorn-rd., Bexley leath.
ans, G. E., 14, Dagmar-rd., Alexandra ark, N.
amson, F. D., Dilstone, Abbey-ter., ateshead-on-Tyne.
rock, R. J., 75, College-rd., Norwich.
head, Mrs., 10, Lothian-rd., Camberell New-rd., S.E.
righton, Mrs. J. W., 21, Carfield-av., eeley, Sheffield.
en, Mrs. M. A., 14, Woodstock-rd., Redand, Bristol.
plin, W. G., 57, Kinsale-rd., East Dulich, S.E.
by, O., St. Elms, Cromwell-rd., Whitable.
worth, J. H., 119, Hollins-rd., Walsden, odmorden.
enborough, T. W., 10, Conway-st., St. eliers, Jersey.
well, H., 10, Home Park, Stoke, evonport.
y, Mrs., 68, Kennington Park-rd., E.
nall, Rev. C. H., St. Vincents. heffield.
rnsfather, B., Bishopton, Stratford-on-von.
dell, J., 34, Clavering-rd., Manor Park.
ham, W. B., 37, Talbot-rd., Bournemouth.
ker, C., 8, Gorton-rd., Liverpool.
ker, Miss M., The Laurels, Nawton ork.
mett, J., Junr., 47, St. John-st., Bridgater.
rows, W., 16, East Smeaton-st., Kirkldy.
lett, A. E., Edwarden, St. David's ill, Exeter.
well, D., 9, Copland-rd., Wembley.
, W. C., 20, Greyhound-rd., Fulham
s, Miss E., 3, Edna-st., Battersea.
y, H. S., 14, Court Ucha-ter., Port albot.
re, F., 46, Winton-st., Andover.
tie, A. E., 24, Station-rd., Llandaff orth.
amin, M., Secretary of Schools, 8, Gt rden-st., Whitechapel, E.
Benson, J. C., 140, Oxford-st., W.
Beresford, R. A. A., Lydgate House, Hunstanton.
Bezodis, C., 135, St. Asaph-rd., Brockley.
Bishop, I. A., Yagahong, Gandergreenlane, Sutton, Surrey.
Bishop, S., 146, High-st., Camden Town
Blackshaw, E., 432, Manchester-rd., Droylsden, nr. Manchester.
Blake, T., West Newton, King's Lynn.
Blake, E. L., La Mascotte, The Park, Ashford, Kent.
Blaxpeck, J., 37, Perham-rd., West Kensington, W.
Bloor, Miss C., 12, Bury Old-rd., Cheetham Hill, Manchester.
Blumberg, R. C., 26, Westbourne-sq., W.
Boasley, R. T., 17, Norland-rd. North, Notting Hill. W
Boland, P., 22, Southfield-pl., Portobello, N.B.
Bonner, S. H., Little Monkhams, Woodford Green.
Bonner, H. G., Newland Hotel, Hyde Park, Leeds.
Booth, Mrs. E., 35, Market-pl., Olney.
Booth, S. V., 104, Third-av., Manor Pk., E
Boulton, W., Maddaford Farm, Okehampton.
Bowe, Mrs. A., Allendale, Avondale-rd., Hove.
Boyle, F. X., Trombonist, Opera House, Cork.
Breeze, A. H., Alton, Midlothian, Blackhall.
Brett, W., 105, F. Queen's-rd., New Trede gar.
Bridge, V., 3, Lyon Villas, Middle-rd., Harrow.
Broderick, D. J., 36, Grove-rd., Clapham Park, S.W.
Brodie, J. H., Lenakee, Motherwell-rd., Bellshill, N.B.
Bromahan, Mrs. R. F., 198, Corfield-st., Bethnal Green.
Brooks, F., 153, High-st., Colliers Wood. Merton.
Brotheridge, W., Arcot Cottage, Sidmouth.
Broughton, C., Rosendean, Lion-rd., Bexley Heath.
Brown, W. H., 73, Belmont Church-rd., Belfast.
Brown, E. W., Ingle Nook, Queen's-av., Watford
Brown, W., 73, Priory-grove, S. Lambeth
Brown, B., 45, St. Paul's-rd., Smethwick.
Brown, J. R., 8, Holmhead-st., Cathcart, Glasgow.
Brown, Mrs. J. M., Victoria Hotel, Woodhall Spa.
Brown, R. A., Womersley, Bathgate, N.B.
Brown, A. S., 105, Southmoor-rd., Oxford.
Bruce, H. R., Adelaide House, Rottingdean
Bruce, H., Garden Tea-Room, Dunkeld.
Bull, J., 22, Clifton-rd., South Norwood.
Burden, A., c/o Davis, 102, Theobalds-rd., W.C.
Burgess, C. A., 9, Terminus-st., Weymouth.
Burns, Miss L., 20, Howard-bldgs., Albert-st., Mile End, N.E.
Button, Miss C., 59, St. Helens, Ipswich.
Bve, W. A., 181, Leek-rd., Smallthorne.
Calder, Dr., Torridon, Ross-shire.
Cale, A., 53, Pinner-rd., Harrow.
Camp, Mrs. E. M., 60, Linden-grove, Peckham, S.E.
Campbell, F., 17, Arthur sq., Belfast.
Canty, Mrs. A., 48, Westcott-st., Hull.
Carey, F., Duleek, Co. Meath.
Chase, A. E., 52, Turner-rd., Walthamstow.
Clark, H. G., 50, York-rd., New Southgate, N.
Clarke, D. E., Chapple-rd., Gt. Tey, Kelvedon.
Chamberlin, J., 23, Nassington-rd., N.W
Childs, Anne, 59, School-st., Lower Brougton, Manchester.
Chisholm, J. M., 37, Comely Bank-rd., Edinburgh.
Clark, C., 53, Etherley-rd., S. Tottenham.
Clarke, W. D., Kirkley, Cunningham Park, Wealdstone.
Clarkson, W., 31, Dowray-rd., Lavender Hill, S.W.
Claxton, E., 6, Tower-st., King's Lynn.
Clayton, G., 153, High-st., Connahs Quay.
Coath, A., 19, Amesbury-rd., Roath Park, Cardiff.
Cockerell, Mrs. G. L., 11, Fairview-av., Levenshulme, Manchester.
Collings, E., The Clyffe Tea-Room, The Promenade, Sheringham.
Collins, H. E., 4, Mayfair-gdns., Loughton
Collins, J., 62, Broughton-rd., Sth. Shields.
Cook, A. E., 110, Marton-rd., Middlesbrough.
Cook, F. A., 17, Earl-rd., Penarth.
Cooper, J. W., 91, High-st., Kenfig Hill, nr. Bridgend.
Cope, Miss, 31, Talbot-rd., West Ealing.
Cooper, J. M., The Oriel House, Leigh-on-Sea.
Constable, L., Fen-rd., Holbeach.
Cousin, H., 13, Townsend-lane, Anfield, Liverpool.
Couchman, F., 18, Alexandra-gdns., Folkestone.
Coupe, Miss F., 69, Canal-st., Nottingham.
Craik, J. S., 1, Beaulieu-ter, The Triangle, Bournemouth.
Crouch, F. A., 29, Festing-grove, Southsea.
Cunningham, G. B., 85, Grange-rd., Bermondsey, S.E.
Cunningham, J. S., 1, Churchyard-row, Newington Butts.
Curd, C. H., Elmsted, Ashford, Kent.
Cuthill, Mrs. A., Manse-rd., Wishaw, nr. Glasgow.
Cutmore, Miss F., 93, Grosvenor-ter., Camberwell. S.E.
Daniels, A., 3, Glade-st., Bolton.
Darlington, Alice, 71, Church-st., Leigh.
Davis, M., 109, Sandringham-rd., Dalston.
Davidson, F., 33, Bridge-rd., Battersea.
Davies, D. O., 3, Central Park-av., Liscard.
Davies, R. E., 29, Crown-st., Port Talbot.
Davis, F. W., 39, Ryecroft-rd., Lewisham.
Davis, A. G., The School House, Upham, Southampton.
Dempsey, W., 28, Trenant-rd., Irlams o' th' Height, Manchester.
Denman, T., 12, Ailsa-st., Poplar, E.
Derrick, A., 1, Marlborough Villas, Edgar-st., Hereford.
Dopson, Miss M., 38, Osborne-rd., Southsea.
Dormer, H., Chalet Hill, Bordon, Hants.
Downey, V. I., 1, Church-rd., Erdington, Birmingham.
Dronsfield, C. F., Taylor's-yard, Earlsheaton.
Dresser, T., 5, Langholm-cres., Darlington.
Duncan, J., Maryvilla, Alexandria, N.B.
Dykes, F., 16, Dunn-st., Paisley, N.B.
Dyson, W. A., 8, Stanley-ter., Humberstone-rd., Leicester.
Easton, H. V., 2, Terminus Villas, Terminus-rd., Bexhill.
Eaton, H., 17, High-st Wolstanton.
Edgehill, Mrs. D. C., Infants' School, Whittington Moor, Chesterfeld.
Edgley, Mrs. J. E., Waverley, Vicarage-rd., Chelmsford.
Eldon, P., 43, Colebrook-row, Islington, N
Elesmore, G. H., 58, Queen-st. Bilston
Elliott, Mrs. J. A., Redheuch, Midanbury-lane, Southampton.
Ely, E. E., Albert Cottage, Halifax-rd, Dewsbury.
Ely, A., Saul, nr. Stonehouse, Glos.
Emberton, A. F., Elmhurst, Victoria-rd, Tunstall.
Emerson, G. L., 9, Railway Cottages, Leadgate.
Emery, J. L., 233, London-rd., Reading.
Emmett, Lilian B., 30, Britannia-rd., Norwich.
Evans, J., 10, Kimberley-rd., Clapham.
Eyre, B. W., 1, Clifton Villas, Vernon Pk., Worcester.
Farmer, E., 1, Cunliffe-st., Stockport.
Farquharson, A., 24, Maberly-st., Aberdeen.
Fleming, W. S., 3, Kingston-rd., Bradford-on-Avon.
Forrester, F., 4, St. Vincent-ter., Shore-rd., Belfast.
Forrester, A., 68, Church-st., Silverdale.
Foster, T., 8, Eden-ter., Coundon, Bishop Auckland.
Fowler, F. T., 27, Lisburne-rd., Hampstead, N.W.
Fowles, C. F., Coldrey's Bakeries, Victoria-rd., S. Norwood.
Francis, L., 41, Queen's-rd., Finsbury Pk., N
Francis, T., 16, Ferrers-rd., Streatham.
Franklin, W., 141, Chamberlayne-rd, Eastleigh.
Freestone, J., 33, Waterecss-rd., Mina-rd., Bristol.
French, J. M., Council-st., Deddington, Oxford.
Galloway, S., 3, Hermitage Park, Leith.
Gamon, C., Sergt-Major, R.E., "Benares," St. George's-rd., Aldershot.
Gardner W. H., 18, Shirley-rd., Cotteridge, Birmingham.
Gibb, Mrs. W., 3, St. Margaret's-ter., Plumstead, S.E.
Gibbons, G. E., 38, Tollemache-st., New Brighton.
Gibbs, A. J., 56a, Wimslow-rd., Withington, Manchester.
Gillespie, D., 2, Logie Green-rd., Broughton, Edinburgh.
Gillow, O. W., 34, Brougham-rd., Seacombe.
Glover, Mrs. H., 1, Cavalry-st., Norwich.
Glover, R. A., H.M. Gunwharf, Portsmouth.
Golding, A., 66, Linden-av., Kensal Rise
Goodacre, E. C., 31, Brunswick-st., Walthamstow.
Goodale, S., Westhorpe, Stowmarket.
Goodhew, F. N., 40, Walkern-rd., Stevenage.
Goodwin, R. B., Percy-st., Amble, Northd

"BULLETS" RULES (*which must be strictly adhered to*)

1 The First Prize will be awarded for what, in the opinion of the editor, assisted by a competent staff of adjudicators, is the best Bullet received, and the other prizes in order of merit. The right to divide a prize or prizes among two or more competitors is reserved.

2. Bullets must be plainly written on one of the coupons on page 686, and only two attempts may be written on each coupon.

3 Both coupons may be used, but each coupon must be accompanied by a postal order for 6d. made payable to JOHN BULL and crossed ____ & Co. Competitors must write their names and addresses, and the date of sending the order on the back of the postal order, the number of which must be duly noted on each coupon submitted. Competitors sending more than one coupon may enclose one postal order for the full amount covering the number of their coupons. Stamps will not be accepted.

4. Coupons must not be cut or defaced in any manner, or have portions of another coupon pasted upon them.

5 Entries must reach us not later than the first post on the morning on Thursday, May 15th.

6 The Editor undertakes that every Bullet reaching him shall receive careful consideration by a competent staff; but the Editor will not hold himself responsible for coupons lost or mislaid.

7. No correspondence can be entered into concerning this competition.

8 The Editor's decision on all matters concerning this competition must be accepted as final and legally binding in all respects, and acceptance of this rule is an express condition of entry

Complete List of 5,000 Winners of Valuable Prizes can be seen at the "John Bull" Offices.

Racing Notes.

Prophetic.

For the Chester Cup, Lorenzo is a big tip, but there is always some doubt about him, and probably a better selection will be

WILFRID.

Perhaps the best to stand for the Jubilee will be

BACHELOR'S HOPE.

At Chester to-day (Wednesday), THELMA'S AMULET is much expected for the Prince of Wales' Welter. The Stamford T.Y.O. and the Badminton T.Y.O. may both go to Kingsclere by means of ALDFORD and KEYHAVEN. On Thursday

OUTRAM,

with Maher up, looks good for the Great Cheshire Handicap, and FLIPPANT may take the Dee Stakes.

On Friday, at Kempton, GARRYHOE should win the Stewards' Handicap; LUXEMBOURG the Waldegrave Handicap; and SILLER the Spring T.Y.O. Plate. On Saturday AUCTIONEERING may take the Three-year-old Plate and KILLANNA the May Auction Plate.

"JOHN BULL" DERBY SWEEP.

Mr. Patrick O'Brien desires us, on his own behalf, to ask for the indulgence of subscribers, as there has been very great pressure upon his office for the past few weeks, and it naturally takes some time to organise the necessary staff to deal with a new undertaking of this kind. He will also be much obliged if holders of books would return their counterfoils as early as possible, in order to reduce the pressure at the close of the list. It will further facilitate the work of the office if the coupons are fastened together in consecutive order according to their numbers.

Congratulations to *Town Topics* on its phenomenal successes with the selections for the Spring Handicaps—Covercoat for the National, and Drinmore for the City and Suburban—following a number of other remarkably correct forecasts.

SPORTING REPLIES.

The names and addresses of correspondents must be enclosed, not, of course, for publication, but in token of good faith

JOHN BULL DERBY SWEEP.—N. S. S. (Earlestown).—We understand Mr. Patrick O'Brien will arrange for all subscribers who draw horses entered in the race to be advised immediately. In addition to this a full result of the draw will appear in our issue published on the morning of the race.——LEAGUE MEMBER.—We understand that Mr. Patrick O'Brien sends a detailed receipt for all remittances and a notification that counterfoils accompanying same have been duly registered. Your friends will, therefore, be able to satisfy themselves that their tickets are included in the draw.——J. E. (Portsmouth).—You should forward 2½d. for postage.——METHOD (Harborne).—So long as 9 counterfoils are sent in we understand it does not matter which books they are taken from.——R. J. (Southport).—It is obvious that purchasers must see that the counterfoils have been sent in for registration.——G. H. J. (Batley).—An English postal order will do.——E. C. LEEDS.—We understand Mr. O'Brien is making special arrangements for country subscribers to receive early intimation of result of the draw.——I. G. (Dundee)—We are sure that extreme pressure of business accounts for the delay in dealing with your letter. The Universal Turf Society Sweep is quite genuine.——WINNIPEG READERS.—The action of the Winnipeg Postmaster in refusing to transmit letters to Mr. Patrick O'Brien, Geneva, is high-handed in the extreme, and his statement that he has done so at the request of the Swiss Government is totally devoid of foundation. But there are more ways than one of killing a cat—and a crank!

TOTALISATOR, LUCERNE.—ANXIOUS.—This is a perfectly genuine business.——M. C. F. (Eskdale).—We note that you are "greatly satisfied with the fair treatment" which this concern has accorded to you. Similar testimonials as to the methods of this firm constantly reach us.

TURF POOL SYNDICATE.—TURF (Leeds), AND OTHERS.—As we understand this sweepstake, it is proposed to issue a sufficient number of tickets to correspond with those issued by the Calcutta Turf Club, and to decide the sweep by the result of that Club's Draw. In ordinary circumstances there would be the objection that a larger number of tickets would be issued by the Calcutta Club than by the Syndicate, but in view of the new regulation that only members of the Calcutta Club can now have books, and that none but members can receive prizes, there is no reason why the scheme cannot be honestly conducted. Steps, however, must of course be taken to see that not more tickets are issued by the Syndicate than by the Calcutta Club. We are assured that this will be done.

H. DIAMOND, LUCERNE.—ROTOM.—You can obtain every particular from Mr. H. Diamond. Lucerne is sufficient address.

LESLIE, MURRAY AND CO.'S SWEEP.—S. J. (Leicester).—You need have no anxiety as to this. The firm is of old-standing, and you may rely that its Derby Sweep (which was to be closed on the 19th but has been extended to the 26th) will be conducted on straight lines.

SMALLMAN AND TERRY (Geneva).—F. I. (Hampstead), AND OTHERS.—A very respectable firm.

"Gale's Special"

The "SPECIAL" that Guarantees Your Success.

A reputation for definite and reliable intelligence combined with straightforward and honourable business transactions, and a desire to impart to each one of our subscribers the best news it is possible to secure with the honest purpose of maintaining that reputation, and thus retaining the continued support and kind recommendation of our subscribers, is one of our greatest assets to-day.

Next Monday's issue of "Gale's Special," published at 2/6, will be sent post free in plain sealed envelope upon receipt of 1/- P.O. or Stamps to all readers of "John Bull" enclosing this paragraph.

Gale's Primus Wire

THE MOST SUCCESSFUL SERVICE EVER INAUGURATED.

During the past Winter Season the **EDITOR OF "GALE'S SPECIAL,"** in conversing with one or two of the largest commissioners in the country, made special arrangements for exclusive information respecting these S. P. Commissions, and a few days prior to the commencement of the Flat-Racing Season communicated with the majority of the subscribers to **"GALE'S SPECIAL,"** intimating that he was introducing a new series of telegrams which he had decided to call

GALE'S PRIMUS WIRE,

and the first message sent out was on Easter Wednesday, March 26th, when our subscribers received **PERSUADE** (10-1) Won. The next Primus Wire was on Thursday, April 3rd, when each subscriber received **CARRIGRUE** (10-1) Won. The next Primus Wire was on Tuesday, April 8th, when each subscriber received **MASTER MACDONALD** (100-8) Won, and this was followed by another Primus Wire on Saturday, April 19th, when each subscriber received **ARRIET** (10-1) Won, the latest selection at the time of writing this advertisement being **AMBASSADOR** (3-1) Won, sent to all subscribers for the Primus Wire on Tuesday, April 29th.

It may be again mentioned that we definitely promised that in the event of failure we would send a free **TATTERSALL'S RING WIRE** to all who subscribed for the **PRIMUS WIRE,** but up to the present we have not been called upon to send out any Compensatory Messages, owing to the soundness of this special and exclusive intelligence, as each selection sent out on the **PRIMUS WIRES,** five in all, has proved successful.

First Selection, Easter Week:
PERSUADE (10-1) Won.

Second Selection, Liverpool:
CARRIGRUE (10-1) Won.

Third Selection, Warwick:
MASTER MACDONALD (100-8) Won.

Fourth Selection, Derby:
ARRIET (10-1) Won.

Fifth Selection, Newmarket:
AMBASSADOR (3-1) Won.

The charge for this Special "Gale's Primus Wire" is TWENTY-FIVE POUNDS PER MESSAGE. The information sent out by the Editor on these special messages is obtained from a source that is quite unavailable to the ordinary Racing Adviser, and in no circumstances whatever is more than one selection ever mentioned on this message. It amounts to this, **one selection only — the best selection that money, brains, and influence, can procure.**

The next selection on this **Gale's Primus Wire** will be sent from Manchester on Wednesday, May 14th, and

As a Special Offer to "John Bull" readers we will send this Special Wire upon receipt of £10, instead of the usual charge of £25,

and unless the selection sent out is successful, and at reasonable odds, we guarantee to send our next Tattersall's Ring Wire **entirely free of charge.** On the other hand, should the selection win at the odds of not less than 6 to 1 against, subscribers will, of course, forward the balance of £15.

Note that our ONLY address is:—

"Gale's Special,"
Ruskin Buildings, Birmingham

Telegraphic Address: "WINNERS, Birmingham."

J. McLAUCHLAN
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LUCERNE AND GLASGOW.
WIRES "GALLOP, GLASGOW."
ESTD 20 YEARS
ANY AMOUNT
FREE
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NO LIMIT

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BIRSFELDEN, SWITZERLAND.
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BINNINGEN, SWITZERLAND.
Turf Specialists.
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WRITE FOR FULL PARTICULARS.

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"Sporting Life."—"Wonderful odds."
"Winning Post."—"Enviable reputation."
Particulars free on application to,
Managing Director. - - H. CULLERNE-BOWN.

WINNINGS POSTED BACK TO CLIENTS BY FIRST POST AFTER RESULTS ARE KNOWN.
NO LIMIT
PATRICK FARLEY
AND AT LUCERNE, SWITZERLAND.
19 HOWARD ST GLASGOW.

TWO GOOD THINGS
NEXT WEEK AT MANCHESTER FREE!!
Six out of last eight WON!!!
When we confidently recommend anything specially you can rest assured that bar accidents a win is sure. Six out of the last eight FREE selections have won and this time we are more than usually confident of BOTH SPECIALS WINNING. Thousands are backing horses our way. Are you? The modern money-making method. We tell you all about our system FREE. Send stamped addressed envelope NOW.
PILOT SYSTEM (Box 5), BEVERLEY, E. Yorks.

A.B.C. GUIDE TO STOCK EXCHANGE
(46th Edition 1913).
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FARROW, GRAHAM & CO.,
1, Bank Street, Royal Exchange, Manchester.

BIG WINS. Post 7/6 for 15 Two Horse "fearnothing" messages, and promise to send "odds" to 1/- only over winners. More DRINMORES, 10-1, &c. "Proof," the Editor of "John Bull." Or post 20/- for 10 "BIG RACE" TIPS. Last week DRINMORE, 10-1, WON; LADY MADCAP, 20-1, WON; WINTHORPE 3rd. Clients jubilant. Begin any time. The "RACING WORLD" says of us:—"A remarkable run of big race successes for years past."
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John Bull, which is very much down on all fraudulent solutionists, says: "In happy contrast to many fugitive sheets established with the object of furthering the machinations of various swindling competition-mongers, the *Competitors' Journal* is an independent organ whose aim is to keep entrants in the various newspaper competitions posted on matters of interest . . . . should secure many supporters, as it can hardly fail to be useful."
The *Journal* is crammed with valuable information and advice which, as *John Bull* says—"can hardly fail to be useful." Our great Advisory Scheme will save you your subscription many times over. Terms:—
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1 month ... ... 6d.
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THE COMPETITORS' JOURNAL, 20, Piccadilly Mansions, Piccadilly Circus, London, W. 'Phone: 1765 Regent.

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Every copy of JOHN BULL bears upon its cover a distinctive number, and every week FIFTY of such numbers will be drawn and PUBLISHED IN THE FOLLOWING ISSUE

To each of the holders of copies of JOHN BULL *of specified date*, bearing any of such numbers, we will, upon production **within seven days of publication** (a reasonable extension will be allowed to foreign and Colonial claimants) of a sufficient portion of the cover to identify the date and number, pay the sum of TWO GUINEAS in return for his using his best endeavour for one week to increase our circulation. Before the money is paid we require a full report of all the work done.

The following claims have been received:—
Mr. W. MARGETTS, 123, Darwin Road, South Ealing. April 12th. No. 341,082.
Mr. O. W. BALL, 49, Grafton Street, Fitzroy Square, W. April 19th. No. 315,882.
Mr. F. E. WYATT, 23, Meadow Road, Pinner, Middlesex. March 15th. No. 36,721.

The following are the fifty numbers for our issue of May 3rd:—

003471	178133	388064	591757	792244
057437	192757	395004	595394	810441
066219	194504	455048	601539	822896
076949	210456	463863	618179	899613
093568	226300	473113	666913	922896
107326	239435	487338	683556	948425
118966	279002	501539	698101	972013
140014	309782	518623	733161	A000397
158779	362163	548718	748627	A112412
171422	370941	579253	752764	A123615

The A prefixed to the drawn numbers indicates it is plus a million.

THE FIFTY NUMBERS IN RESPECT OF THIS WEEK WILL BE ANNOUNCED IN OUR NEXT ISSUE (PUBLISHED MAY 14TH).

DOUGLAS STUART

LIESTAL, SWITZERLAND.

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